

The Center for Reducing Health Disparities Annual Report 2021



**Working with Communities to Improve Health through
Collaborative Research, Education and Service**

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February 9, 2022

Dear Colleagues and Community Partners,

I hope this note finds you safe and healthy amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We want to take this opportunity to share with you the main program efforts and activities by the Center for Reducing Health Disparities (CRHD) in community services and community-engaged research in the year of 2021. Altogether our team worked on 26 research projects, received 7 new grants, and developed 47 peer-reviewed publications. We successfully hosted two health fairs, serving over 200 local residents. Extramural funding support to the Center surpassed \$340,000 in Fiscal Year 2021, an increase of 24% from the previous fiscal year, which has allowed our Center to expand sponsorships for community health programs and to jointly fund 6 community-engaged pilot studies with the Department of Health Promotion in our college.

Last year has been a fruitful year for our Center's North Omaha Satellite Office. In partnership with the North Omaha Community Care Council, Dr. Keyonna King and her team developed and administered a COVID-19 survey in North Omaha whereby they were able to collect data from 1,129 local residents about how the pandemic has affected their health and daily lives including their attitudes towards the COVID-19 vaccines. Dr. King has been co-leading an NIH grant application with Dr. Estabrooks to culturally adapt a weight loss intervention program for African American residents in Omaha while simultaneously addressing related policy, system, and environment issues.

The year of 2021 also witnessed remarkable successes for Dr. Athena Ramos, Marcela Carvajal, and Natalia Trinidad. Under Dr. Ramos' leadership, the team secured a \$600,000 grant from the University of Nebraska Foundation to conduct a SARS-CoV2 exposure assessment in meatpacking facilities. The team hosted a panel discussion with State Senator Tony Vargas on protecting meatpacking workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Ramos also received another grant of \$100,000 from Tobacco Free Nebraska to support education and outreach for smoke-free housing in Douglas County. Another good indicator of the research productivity of Dr. Ramos and her team is that they have managed to publish 14 peer-reviewed publications in 2021 alone!

I led several studies in 2021. With funding support from the Holland Foundation, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln, one of the studies focuses on assessing hesitancy to take the COVID-19 vaccines among over 1,500 Nebraskans, with oversampling of racial and ethnic minorities. Findings from this study have been reported by local media and widely shared with our community partners. Based on two contracts with Nebraska DHHS, I led our team to develop and submit 4 research reports respectively focusing on the community health worker workforce in Nebraska and pediatric mental health care access during the current pandemic. I want to acknowledge and thank Jessica Ern, Tari Rose, Jason Dundis, and our graduate assistants Aiden Quinn, Cady Walker, Khalid Alshehri, and Gaurav Kumar for their contribution to these studies.

We also collaborated with local African American faith community (represented by Mrs. Doris Lassiter), Nebraska Medicine Fontenelle Clinic, and UNMC Library to revise and resubmit an NIH grant application that seeks to establish a new model for hypertension prevention and control in African American communities.

Our Center went through some personnel changes in 2021. We bid farewell to Dr. Drissa Toure, Kenya Love, and Jason Dundis as they embarked on their new career steps. We are glad to welcome several new members who recently joined our team: Jessica Ern as our new Community Research Data Coordinator, Cassandra Hill-Craun as our new Financial Administrator, LaTresha Rideout as our new Community Outreach Specialist, and Michael Griffin as our new Community Health Program Manager.

Early in 2021, with Dean Khan's recommendation, I represented our college in receiving the Harrison Spencer Award for Outstanding Community Service at a virtual ceremony hosted by the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH). There is simply no way that we could receive this national recognition without the trust and partnerships from our community partners over the years. This award is a great encouragement and inspiration to all of us as we continue to build, maintain, and grow our partnerships with diverse communities and stakeholders to address health inequities.

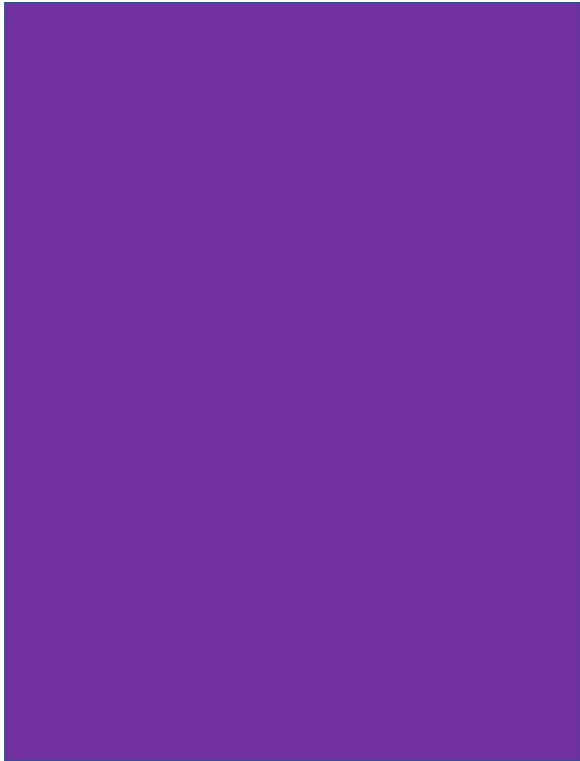
Thank you for your attention and support to our Center. We look forward to our future partnerships and joint efforts in promoting social justice and health equity in Nebraska and beyond.

Sincerely,

Dejun Su, PhD
Director, Center for Reducing Health Disparities
College of Public Health
University of Nebraska Medical Center



**The CRHD Vision
and Mission**



Vision of the Center

To become a nationally recognized Center of Excellence for promoting health equity through quality research, education, and community engagement.

Mission of the Center

To promote equity and social justice in health and health care by leading collaborative efforts to generate and disseminate evidence-based, policy-relevant solutions.

Goals

- #1: Enhance the role of UNMC in addressing disparities in health outcomes among Nebraskans through consistent community engagement, partnerships, and advocacy.
- #2: Promote translational research that would help reduce disparities in health status and health care at the local, state, national, and global levels.
- #3: Support UNMC’s education initiatives in health disparities.

Community Engagement,
Service and Advocacy





CRHD PROGRAMS & INTERVENTIONS

Health Fairs

Bridge to Care Health Fair

The Bridge to Care (BTC) Annual Fall Refugee Health Fair was held on November 13, 2021. In collaboration with Benson High School, Walgreens, and Methodist Health Care System, BTC held a socially distanced indoor health fair at Benson High. More than 100 refugees in the Omaha area received COVID-19 vaccines, flu shots, toiletries, foods, and personal protective equipment (PPE) (mask, gloves, and hand sanitizers). Dr. King worked with students from the College of Pharmacy, Public Health, Nursing, and Medicine to facilitate the fair. Benson High School provided interpreters, and Methodist Health Care System provided a generous donation to support the purchase of resources to distribute to health fair attendees. Nebraska Medicine offered COVID-19 vaccines, Walgreens Pharmacy offered flu shots, and the College of Medicine offered MUNA boxes.



Caption: Bridge to Care Student Organization leaders (Ahn Tran, Lam Le, Josh Meyer, and other students), Dr. Keyonna King, Tatiana Tchouankam, Titilola Labisi, and Dr. Dejun Su at the BTC Health Fair at Benson High School.

Healthy Living

All of Us Research Initiative Outreach Program

The Center is partnering with the National Alliance for Hispanic Health to promote the All of Us Research Initiative. All of Us is an initiative of the National Institute of Health (NIH) and is a major piece of the Precision Medicine Initiative. All of Us seeks to engage one million or more people in the U.S. to contribute their health data to improve health outcomes, fuel the development of new treatments for disease, and catalyze a new era of evidence-based and more precise preventive care and medical treatment. All of Us aims to engage a community of participants that reflects the diversity of America, including many people who have been underrepresented in biomedical research. Our Center has been working to promote this research initiative among Latino communities in Nebraska since 2019.



Photo: UNMC-CRHD student worker and Guatemalan Consulate worker during a Guatemalan Consulate event in El Centro de las Americas in Lincoln, Nebraska on November 20, 2021

Besides our consistent presence on social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), we have implemented virtual, contactless, and in-person outreach strategies. We have participated in community and academic presentations, health fairs (e.g., the Mexican Consulate's Binational Health Week and UNO Health and Wellness Fair), as well contactless and virtual participation in different events in the community (e.g., Douglas County Health Department vaccination clinics) and throughout the region.

We have strengthened our alliances with community partners and created new collaborations to help be a bridge between researchers and the community. For example, We have partnered with the Guatemalan Consulate to promote the All of Us research program among the Guatemalan community living in Nebraska and neighboring states. Additionally, our team frequently the Mexican consulate every month to provide information and facilitate engagement in the program.

Bienvenido Program



Photo: Final Bienvenido session with farmworkers in Nebraska, July 2021

The Bienvenido (Welcome) program is an educational strengths-based mental health promotion program designed for Latino immigrants. It strives to help participants attain a higher quality of life by increasing awareness of mental health and reducing emotional and behavioral risk factors such as substance use and misuse. It is designed with a “vision, virtue, vocation” framework in which reflection and awareness about emotions are linked to mental health knowledge and information to put them into practice. The program was developed by Gilberto Perez, MSW, ACSW who has more than a decade of experience with implementation and was adapted by our Center’s team.

We implemented the program during summer 2021 with a group of 35 Mexican immigrant farmworkers. The program consisted of five 2-hour sessions offered in Spanish and was facilitated after working hours at the place where the farmworkers were living. A total of 29 participants completed the program.

In general, participants mentioned they enjoyed the discussions and interactions and got to know their coworkers better.

“I appreciate what you do for people and keep at it. A lot of people don’t know or understand what mental health is and thanks to you, I now know what it is. I can now manage my problems better.”

Funding for this program was received through USDA NIFA 2020-70028-32728.

COVID-19 Response

The Center has played a critical role in helping communities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been a key partner in providing information and resources to community members. Below are some of the activities that we have undertaken:

- Hosted a full-day conference on COVID-19 for farmworker serving organizations across the state of Nebraska, which included a presentation by COPH Dean, Dr. Khan
- Developed a COVID-19 information toolkit for farmworker serving organizations
- Facilitated access to UNMC experts for the South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance (SONA) meetings and other community partners
- Coordinated virtual meetings with community partners in non-metropolitan areas of Nebraska
- Provided multilingual COVID-19 health and safety information to the public through a variety of channels including live virtual meetings, social media, print, radio, and TV

Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health First Aid is an international program which has proven to be effective in: (1) Growing knowledge of signs, symptoms and risk factors of mental illnesses and addictions; (2) Identifying multiple types of professional and self-help resources for individuals with a mental illness or addiction; (3)

Increasing their confidence in and likelihood to help an individual in distress; and (4) Increasing mental wellness among participants. Studies also show that the program reduces the social distance created by negative attitudes and perceptions of individuals with mental illnesses.



Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

Natalia Trinidad, Marcela Carvajal and Maria Jose Sanchez are certified to facilitate the adult program, and Natalia Trinidad and Marcela Carvajal are certified to facilitate the youth program in English, Spanish, and virtually. Our team is amongst the few Spanish-language trainers in the state of Nebraska.

During this year, two virtual trainings were completed:

- Youth Mental Health First Aid: May 25, 2021, with 12 participants
- Youth Mental Health First Aid: May 26, 2021, with 6 participants

Planting Seeds of Partnership Conference

On April 20-21, 2021, the Planting Seeds of Partnership annual conference was held virtually. This year's conference focused on leveraging resources to aid in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and daily struggles faced by farmworkers and their families. UNMC College of Public Health organized and hosted the conference on April 20, 2021. Dr. Ali Khan, Dean of UNMC College of Public Health was the keynote speaker. Also featured that day were presentations from Dr. Athena Ramos (UNMC), Dr. Claudia Corwin (University of Iowa & Proteus), Ellen Duysen (UNMC & Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health), and Dr. Joseph Grzywacz (Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety). The second day of the conference focused on leveraging resources and collaborations to tackle challenges faced by migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families, such as education, employment, and legal concerns. There were four agency presentations and a keynote presentation by Bruce Goldstein, President of Farmworker Justice. Nearly 120 people registered for the conference.



Support Groups & Workshops

QPR

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer, which are the three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. QPR is an emergency mental health intervention for suicidal persons created in 1995 by Paul Quinnett. The intent is to identify and interrupt the crisis and direct that person to the proper care. During the training participants learn to recognize the signs of suicide, know how to offer hope, and know how to get help and save a life. This year, we completed two QPR trainings.

- February 24, 2021, with 20 participants
- February 24, 2021, with 15 participants



Strengthening Families

The Strengthening Families program is an evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly improve parenting skills and family relationships, reduce problem behaviors including delinquency and alcohol and drug abuse in children, and to improve social competencies and school performance. Dr. Athena Ramos, Marcela Carvajal, and Natalia Trinidad are trained program facilitators. The Center in partnership with the Monroe Meyer Institute and the Latino Center of the Midlands implemented the Strengthening Families program with eight families in February and March 2020, but the program was canceled after the third session due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on in-person programming. The program was modified to be offered virtually and participants from last year were invited to complete the program in the Spring of 2021. Three families completed the program in May 2021.



Photo: UNMC-CRHD staff, Latino Center of the Midlands staff, and families participating in SFP on May 2021.

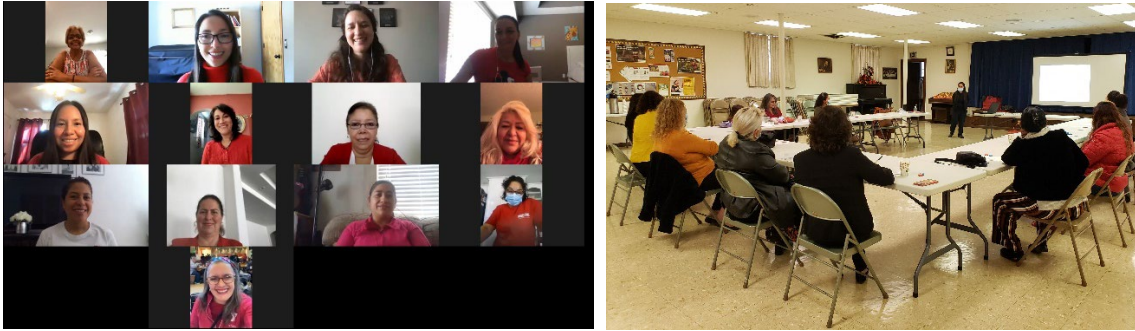
Tobacco Prevention and Control

The Tobacco Prevention Program at the Center has been funded by Tobacco Free Nebraska since 2002. The program continues to be a major component of the services provided to the Latino community by the Center. This program focuses on tobacco education and prevention in both youth and adults. This initiative has been successful due to the use of a culturally and linguistically sensitive approach. In addition to tobacco prevention, the program focuses on health issues related with tobacco use, like chronic diseases and disparities in access to healthcare affecting the Latino community. The Center works closely with community agencies, businesses, faith-based organizations, and tobacco-free coalitions to educate, collaborate, and promote tobacco-free lifestyles. The Center focuses on tobacco prevention outreach, education, and engagement, serving on the front lines to address the health needs associated with tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke of the underserved with the ultimate goal of attaining and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. This year we continued to participate in events and activities that were offered both virtually and in-person.

Below is a list of some of the programs that are associated with this project:

- **Cessation (Quitting) Program** – Natalia Trinidad is a certified American Lung Association *Freedom From Smoking* program facilitator. The program features a step-by-step plan for quitting smoking and transitioning to a smoke-free lifestyle. Each session is designed to help smokers gain control over their behavior, and because no single quit smoking plan is effective for all smokers, the program has a variety of evidence-based techniques for individuals to combine into their own plan to quit smoking. Natalia Trinidad is available to provide an 8-week cessation program in English and Spanish. The cessation program includes information on behavioral modification, peer support, and basic information on pharmacotherapy.
- **Latinas, Tabaco, y Cáncer (LTC)** – Marcela Carvajal, Natalia Trinidad, Maria Jose Sanchez, and Dr. Athena Ramos support the Latinas, Tabaco, y Cáncer project. Latinas, Tabaco, y Cáncer (LTC) is a group of Latina women from the Omaha area, engaged in education and advocacy activities to develop community-based projects that build community capacity and influence the social norms around tobacco use, exposure to secondhand smoke, and health promotion. The LTC met via Zoom throughout the year until October 2021 when we met to participate in the Susan G. Komen Walk and started celebrating our bi-monthly in-person meetings in the community following UNMC guidelines

to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Each month, we averaged approximately 12 women who participated in the meetings.



Photos: (Left) LTC members and CRHD staff celebrating the American Heart Month in our virtual meeting on February 18, 2021 and (Right) The first in-person meeting of the year on October 21, 2021



Photo: CRHD and LTC members during the Susan G. Komen Walk on October 16, 2021

- **Partnership with the Nebraska Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (NHCC)** – Marcela Carvajal, Natalia Trinidad, and Dr. Athena Ramos participate in the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as a way to reach Latino businesses and leaders about tobacco-related issues. The team started attending the in-person networking meetings after September of 2021.



Photo: CRHD and NHCC members during a networking meeting on October 29, 2021

- Podcast** – Our team is in the process of starting a bilingual podcast called, “Healthy People, Healthy Places” where we will talk about health-related topics including tobacco prevention activities and projects that we are working on. Podcast episodes will be available on UNMC and MOTAC’s website and will be distributed in various podcast platforms. The podcast episodes will be in English and Spanish.



- Smoke-Free Housing** – This year, we received additional funding from Tobacco Free Nebraska to focus on smoke-free housing initiatives within Douglas county. In partnership with The Well Being Partners, we have reinstated the Health + Housing Initiative. Dr. Athena Ramos, Natalia Trinidad, Diana Molina, and Karen Schmeits participate in these meetings. As part of the group, our team provides community education and training, technical assistance for policy development, mapping technology for tobacco-free locations, and promotion of tobacco-free/smoke-free initiatives, and acts as a collaborative partner to set and achieve the collective action plan.

- Social Media Outreach** – The team provides feedback on MOTAC’s social media strategy. The team also provides photos and content for the MOTAC Facebook and Twitter pages.



@MOTAC



- **Television Show** – Natalia Trinidad and Marcela Carvajal host a quarterly half-hour TV program that connects directly to the Spanish-speaking community in the Omaha metro and surrounding areas. They talk about MOTAC’s initiatives and tobacco prevention topics during the show, which is streamed online on Bonita Omaha’s [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#) as well as on KPAO Cox Channel 22.



Photo: Natalia Trinidad and Bonita Omaha host Saúl López during the t.v. show on October 26, 2021

- **Tobacco Radio Show** – The Tobacco Talk radio show is a one-hour live program aired on Radio Lobo (KBBX 97.7 FM) every quarter. It is hosted by Natalia Trinidad and Marcela Carvajal with invited special guests. This program is used to educate Spanish-speaking listeners on the dangers of tobacco and the benefits of smoke-free environments. The target audience is estimated to be 70,000-80,000 listeners per show.

Partnerships with Organizations and Campus Groups

Bridge to Care (BTC)

Bridge to Care (BTC), an inter-professional, community-engaged, and student-led legacy project supported by the Center for Reducing Health Disparities at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) under the leadership of Dr. King. BTC is the only UNMC Recognized Student Organization (RSO) with the direct aims of providing opportunities for students to interact and deliver health services and education to refugees in Omaha. BTC supports resettled refugees through bi-annual health fairs offering health education, screening, services from Community partners (i.e., clinical practices, federally qualified health centers, state, and local public health), and UNMC students. Volunteers simultaneously develop cross-cultural competencies.

MASCUP by Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Titilola Labisi volunteered in an eight-week mask observation study organized from February 2021 to March 2021. The purpose of the study was to observe people on University campuses and collect data on how people wear masks and the types of masks worn on campus.

Clair Memorial United Methodist Church Food Pantry

Titilola Labisi and Dr. Keyonna King volunteered on several 3rd Saturdays of the month at the church's food pantry.

Power of Prevention

Power of Prevention was in October 2021 which was a community-academic partnered event to raise awareness about COVID-19 vaccination. In addition to the Center, other partners involved included Nebraska Medicine, Douglas County Health Department, Clair Memorial United Methodist Church, Appleseed, Taste of New Orleans, and so many more! The Mocha Docs – a collaborative of underrepresented minority physicians, researchers, and other health professions in Omaha were panelist taking questions from community residents about COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Keyonna King and Titilola Labisi attended the event as an opportunity to share resources related to COVID-19 and data collection for one of our funded projects.



Photo: Titilola Labisi distributing resources and collecting data at Power of Prevention

Partnerships with Organizations and Campus Groups



Photo: (Clockwise) Pastor Portia Cavitt, Dr. Keyonna King, and Titilola Labisi at Power of Prevention Event in October 2021



Photo: Power of Prevention panelists, vendors, and organizers (Left to Right): Dr. Keyonna King, Dr. Lucille Woodard, Ada Wilson, Shand Ross, Dr. Jasmine Marcelin, Pastor Portia Cavitt, Dr. Shirley Delair, Dr. Andrea Jones, and Titilola Labisi

College of Medicine Community Engagement Day

The College of Medicine and their Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion partnered with various entities across campus, including the Center, to host a Community Engagement Day for first year medical students (M1). Students were able to tour and meet with staff at various community-based organizations serving Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and other populations of the Greater Metro area.

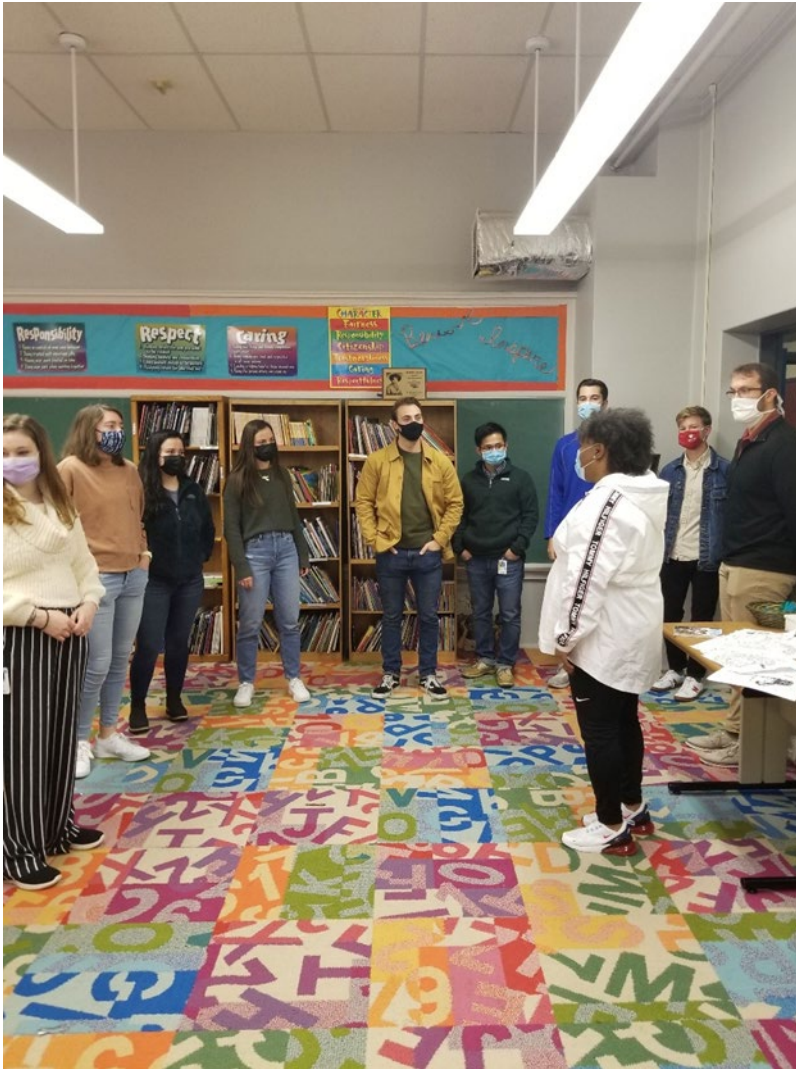


Photo: UNMC M1 students touring Girls, Inc. located in North Omaha



Photo: UNMC M1 students touring clinic side of Girls, Inc. located in North Omaha



Photo: Dr. King with UNMC M1 students touring Girls, Inc. North Omaha

- **Girls, Inc. STEM Day**

Titilola Labisi was invited to present at the Girl's Inc. STEM Day on August 10, 2021. She was joined by three other graduate students and physicians from UNMC. They participated in an interactive session with 7th to 10th graders on topics related to science and healthcare professions including requirements, roles, and challenges at Girls, Inc.



Photo: Titilola and other health and healthcare professionals and students at STEM Day at Girls, Inc.



Photo: Titilola Labisi and other health and healthcare professionals and students at STEM Day at Girls, Inc.



Photo: Titilola Labisi and other UNMC graduate students and Girls, Inc. staff at STEM Day

- North Omaha Area Health (NOAH) Clinic Summer Health Internship Program**
 NOAH's Summer Health Internship Program (SHIP) is a 10-week program where high school and college students learn about various health professions. In addition, they learn about research from Dr. Keyonna King and other Center students, staff, and faculty to complete a research project focused on a priority need identified by the SHIP interns. This year, the focus was on racism and health in which the students completed a Photovoice Project and presented to community and academic partners at the Center's satellite office in North Omaha.

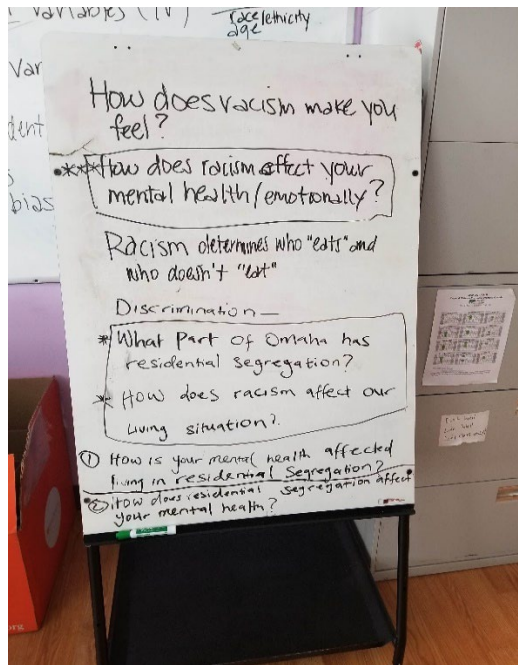
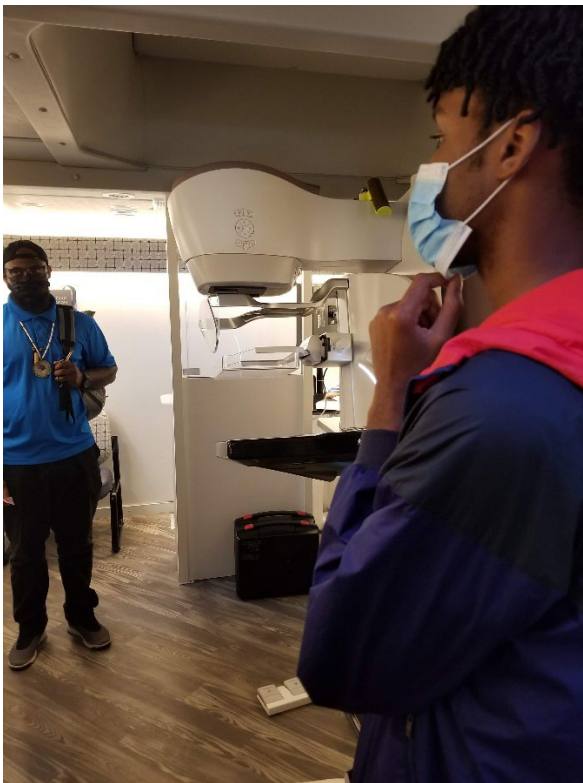


Photo: SHIP interns completed a brainstorming activity to develop research questions for project.



Photo: SHIP interns take a tour of the mobile mammogram clinic



SHIP Director, Shomari Huggins and SHIP intern touring the mobile mammogram clinic



Photo: Community members viewing one of the Photovoice Project displays presented by a SHIP intern



Photo: Community members and academic partners viewing one of the Photovoice Projects displays presented by a SHIP intern



Photo: Community members and academic partners viewing one of the Photovoice Project displays presented by a SHIP intern.

- **Douglas County Board of Health COVID-19 Response**

Dr. Keyonna King has been a member of the Douglas County Board of Health (DC BOH), since 2019. This year, her role continued to be critical in participating in guiding the Douglas County Health Department’s response to COVID-19 along with the other Board of Health members. Dr. Lindsay Huse and other DCHD staff presented monthly updates to the board for their consideration and feedback for strategies for vaccinating residents with special focus on residents experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infections.

- **HS-MACA Common Ground Series**

Dr. Keyonna King presented on one of her pilot projects focused on testing the feasibility of a mental health intervention for Black fathers hosted by Creighton’s Health Sciences Multicultural and Community Affairs. This 60-minute presentation took place on March 19. The goal of the series is to expose a diverse group of students interested in the health sciences at the undergraduate and graduate level to health and public health topics.

The flyer is a rectangular graphic with a light blue border. At the top left is the Creighton University logo with the tagline 'Health, Wellness, Multicultural and Community Affairs' and the acronym 'HS-MACA'. To the right of this is the title 'COMMON GROUND' in large blue letters, with the subtitle 'An Interprofessional Forum focused on Health Disparities' below it. On the left side, there is a square portrait of Dr. Keyonna King, a Black woman with dark hair, wearing a red top. To the right of the portrait, the text reads 'PRESENTER: Keyonna King, DrPH, MA' followed by her title 'Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, University of Nebraska Medical Center'. Below this, it says 'TOPIC: Master Mind: A Mental Health Intervention for Black Fathers in North Omaha'. At the bottom, there are two yellow boxes. The left box contains the text 'Have a specific question you want our speaker to address during the session? Email them to AndreTan@creighton.edu'. The right box contains the date 'DATE: March 19th, 2021 (Friday)', the time 'TIME: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm', and the Zoom link 'ZOOM LINK: <https://creighton.zoom.us/j/92110944671>'.

Presentation flyer: Dr. Keyonna King

Partnership with the Nebraska Center for Prevention of Obesity Diseases through Dietary Molecules (NPOD)



Nebraska Center for the Prevention of Obesity Diseases through Dietary Molecules

Dr. Fabiana Brito Silva is a project leader in the Hispanic Family Connections project. As a part of that partnership, she and her team receive their support to conduct research and participate in several activities throughout the year including Spring and Fall Symposiums, Summer and Winter Student Appreciation events, trainings, and weekly webinars with presentations from the top national and international researchers in the obesity field.

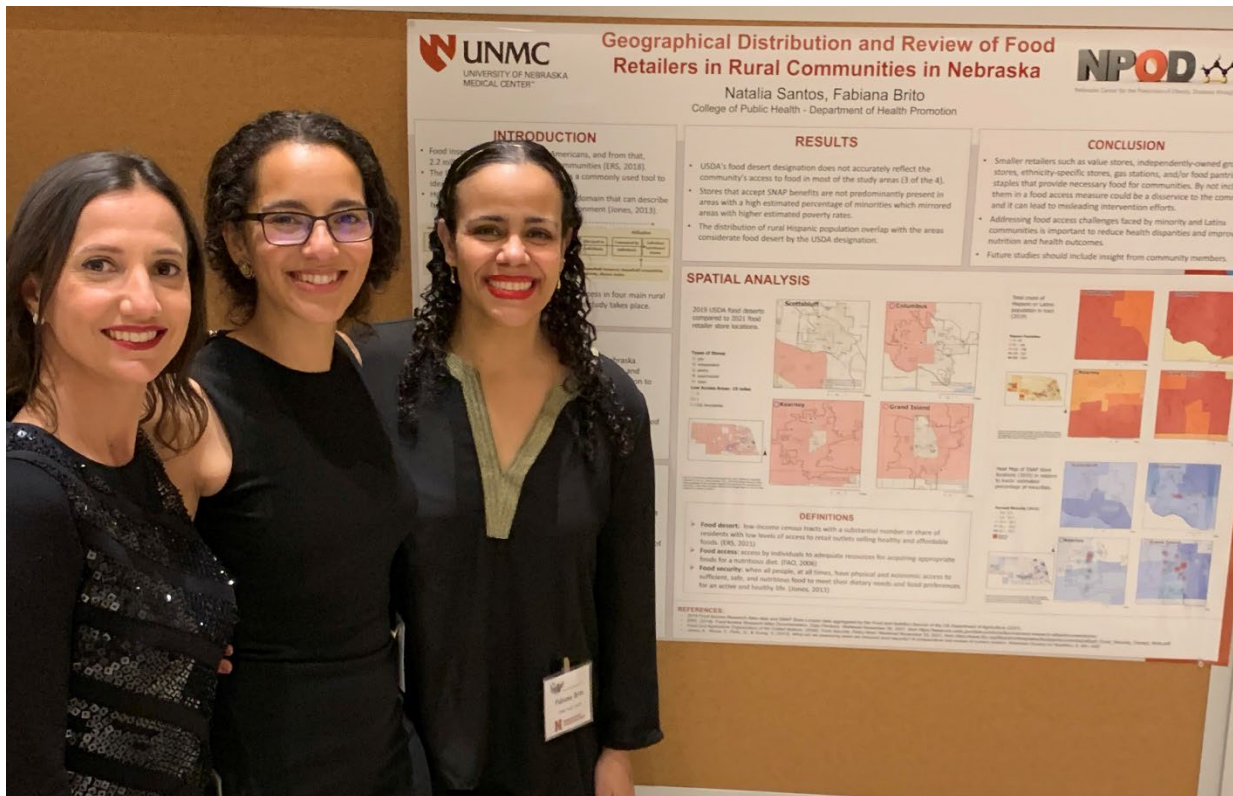
This year, Dr. Silva presented her project titled “Cultural adaptation and feasibility testing of a technology-based pediatric weigh management intervention for rural Latino communities” in the NPOD Fall event and received great review from the External Advisory Board members. In addition, her project team was recognized during the Summer Student Recognition event (picture).



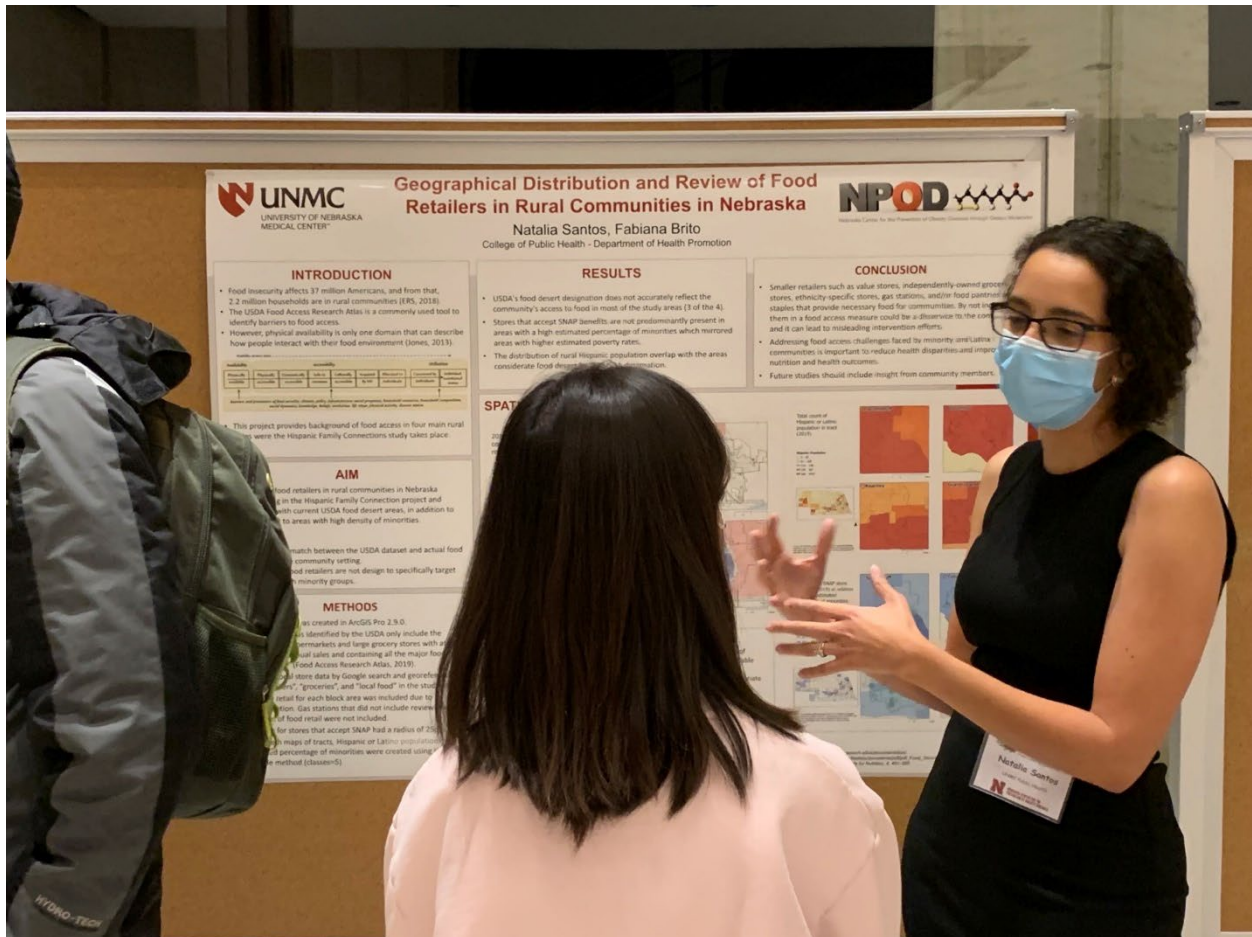
Dr. Brito and Leon with Dr. Zemleni, NPOD Director and center’s members during the 2021 summer event.

Elisa de Leon received a poster cash award from NPOD Fall Symposium 2021, for presenting the "Study of Health in Primary Care of the Amazon Population". She is a newly arrived postdoc from Brazil mentored by Drs. Almeida and Silva. In Brazil, she is a professor at Amazonas Federal University and conducts research addressing the diabetic population and public health care in collaboration with Drs. Almeida and Silva. The Study of Health in Primary Care of the Amazon Population (SAPPA) is the first large-scale study of Amazon Population and chronic diseases.

Natalia Santos, also a member of Dr. Silva’s team presented her work “Geographical Distribution and Review of Food Retailers in Rural Communities in Nebraska” during the NPOD Annual Winter Student Recognition event (picture).



Dr. Brito, Natalia Santos (PhD Student-presenter) and Dr. Elisa de Leon (Postdoc) at the NPOD Annual Winter Student Recognition event.



Natalia Santos (PhD Student)

Northeast Nebraska Rural Health Network (NNRHN)

Dr. Fabiana Brito Silva and Dr. Christine Eisenhauer (College of Nursing) are participating as founding board members representing the UNMC in the newly formed Northeast Nebraska Rural Health Network (NNRHN) funded by a HRSA grant. As part of the awarded HRSA grant (2021-2023) that was submitted in 2020, the network proposed to implement changes in the reimbursement and data monitoring to address obesity and select/implement evidence-based programs during the last year of funding in those rural areas, as it may be an improved way to evaluate more in-depth impact of those changes within the local rural healthcare system.

The project includes the selection and implementation of a technology-based intervention in year 2 of the strategic plan by the Network partners to reduce obesity prevalence in rural Northeast Nebraska. Also being developed is a communication plan that includes culturally and linguistically appropriate strategies for residents across the lifespan of the NNPHD service area to promote awareness, training, and education events.

Northeast Nebraska Rural Health Network

Working Together We Create a Healthier Community!



The NNRHN members include five health-care organizations: 1) The Providence Medical Center (PMC); 2) The Pender Community Hospital (PCH); 3) The Winnebago Tribal Health Department; 4) University of Nebraska Medical Center, and the Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department (NNPHD) who is the collaborative lead.

The primary purpose of project is to continue the work started by the current formal integrated region-wide rural health network known as the Northeast Nebraska Rural Health Network (NNRHN).

Goal 1: Improve access and quality of health care in rural areas through sustainable community health needs assessment (CHNA) and community health improvement planning (CHIP) to create effective health care programs because of network collaboration.

Goal 2: Prepare NNRHN for the transition to value-based payment and population health management.

Goal 3: Reduce the levels of overweight/obesity found in the 18–74-year-old population within the service area.

The NNRN is supporting the Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department (NNPHD) which serves Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, and Wayne counties, to conduct the 2021 Community Health Assessment that is underway. Planning is the next step in the process. After the data have been collected for the area, it can be used by any organization to help inform and support their work.

Under the leadership of Julie Rother, NNPHD Health Director, and along with the Network director and additional partners who have been active in the planning work, more than 40 community partners have been invited to share their input at community meetings held in past months, which will help them better understand the health needs of Northeast Nebraska.



Celebrating the Power of Rural Movement!

On November 18th, 2021, we are proud to support National Rural Health Day. We hope that you will join us in recognizing and honoring those who work every day to keep our community healthy.

Northeast Nebraska Rural Health Network



#PowerofRural | powerofrural.org



Advocacy Activities & Professional Services

Dejun Su

Dr. Dejun Su is a member of the UNMC Library Advisory Committee. Starting from 2021. Dr. Su has been serving as a member of the Health Equity Committee organized by Douglas County Health Department.

Keyonna King

Dr. Keyonna King has been a member of the Douglas County Board of Health since 2019. This year, her role continued to be critical in participation in guiding the Douglas County health Department's response to COVID-19.

Fabiana Brito Silva

Dr. Fabiana Brito Silva is a board member of the Northeast Nebraska Rural Health Network and the Public Health Association of Nebraska.

Jessica Ern

Jessica Ern is a member of the American Public Health Association, Nebraska Public Health Association, and the Global Health Council.

Athena Ramos

Dr. Athena Ramos served on the UNMC Bias Assessment & Response Team (BART), UNMC Cultural Competency Review Committee, COPH Diversity Committee, and the COPH Latino Public Health Advisory Committee.

Dr. Athena Ramos served on the National Latino Advisory Board for the AgriSafe Network. She was an advisory board member for the PCORI-funded *Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers and Health Research: Developing Capacity for Patient Centered Outcomes Research project* and the NIOSH-funded *Heartland Center for Occupational Health and Safety*.

Dr. Athena Ramos co-hosted a virtual seminar for the International Society on Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH) on "Rural agricultural safety and health in Africa" on February 9, 2021.

Dr. Athena Ramos served on the Board of Directors for the Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim, NCERA 216, and the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health. In 2021, she was elected to the Boards of Directors for Spark Community Development and the Omaha Community Foundation. She also serves on the advisory board for Omaha By Design.

Natalia Trinidad

Natalia Trinidad was elected to the Board of Directors for the Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition (MOTAC).

Center for Reducing Health Disparities

2021 Community Sponsorships

Center for Holistic Development's Dare to Believe Gala



Dr. Sheritta Strong and Dr. Keyonna King at the Dare to Believe Gala



Dr. Keyonna King and Ms. Tiffany White-Welchen at the Dare to Believe Gala

My Sister's Keeper Celebration of Life Luncheon



Dr. Keyonna King and luncheon attendee at My Sister's Keeper Celebration of Life Luncheon



CEO MaxCine Jackson honoring the breast cancer survivors over the last 35+ years at My Sister's Keeper Celebration of Life Luncheon

My Sister's Keeper 7th Annual Spring Honors Walk

North Omaha Community Care Council Virtual Annual Luncheon

Red Bridge Ministries Toy Giveaway



Red Bridge Ministries church members dressed up as Santa and other Christmas characters to distribute toys to children

National Indian Health Board 11th Annual National Tribal Public Health Summit and 38th Annual National Tribal Health Conference

Global Health Conference Midwest 2022

**Center for Reducing Health Disparities
2021 Community Sponsorships**

One World Community Health Center One World Milagro Dinner

Project Extra Mile Recognition Dinner

South Omaha Community Care Council Luncheons

Wakanda Arts, LLC. One Kwanzaa: Unity First Virtual Program

World Speaks Bridge to Care Corporate Sponsorship

Community Partnerships

- ACLU Nebraska
- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- American Psychological Association, Behavioral & Social Science Volunteer Program
- American Society for Public Administration
- Avenue Scholars
- Bellevue Public Schools
- Benson High School
- Bonita Omaha, KPAO Community Television
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Omaha
- Boys Town
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Advisory Committee
- Building Healthy Futures
- Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center at Macy, NE
- Castelar Elementary School
- Catholic Charities – Juan Diego Center & Latina Resource Center
- Center for Holistic Development
- Centro Hispano de Columbus
- Centro de las Americas
- Charles Drew Health Center
- City Sprouts/City Sprouts South
- Coalition for a Stronger Nebraska
- College of Saint Mary
- Comité Latino de Schuyler
- Community Alliance
- Compassion in Action/RAW DAWGS Youth
- Gang Prevention Program
- Communid Maya Pixan Ixim
- Connoisseur Media/Radio Lobo-97.7 FM
- Consulate of Mexico
- Creighton University
- Creighton University, Health Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA)
- Creighton University Latino Student Association CULSA)
- Douglas County Department of Corrections
- Douglas County Health Department
- Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partnership (ENCAP)
- El Museo Latino
- El Perico Newspaper
- Empowerment Network
- Fontenelle Forest
- Girls Inc.
- Guatemalan Consulate

Community Partnerships

- Heartland 2050
- Heartland Workers' Center
- Immigrant Legal Center
- Inclusive Communities
- Intercultural Senior Center
- Islamic Center of Omaha (ICO)
- Justice for Our Neighbors
- Latin Media Network, TV Latina
- Latinas Unidas
- Latino Center of the Midlands
- Latino Leaders High School Clubs
- Latino Peace Officers Associations (LPOA)
- Learning Community Center of South Omaha
- Live Well Omaha
- Malcolm X Memorial Foundation
- Metro Omaha Tobacco Actions Coalition (MOTAC)
- Mexican Consulate
- Mujeres y Valores
- Mundo Latino Newspaper
- My Sister's Keeper
- National Alliance for Hispanic Health
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Omaha Branch
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women Greater Omaha Chapter
- National Indian Health Board (NIHB)
- National Latino Tobacco Control Network
- National Network for LGBT Health Equity
- Nebraska Action Coalition-Future of Nursing
- Nebraska Appleseed
- Nebraska Corrections Youth Facility
- Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Maternal & Child Health Program
- Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity, Division of Public Health
- Nebraska Department of Labor
- Nebraska Families Collaborative
- Nebraska Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Nebraska Medicine Fontenelle Clinic
- Nebraska Migrant Action Coalition
- Nebraska Tobacco Disparities Network
- New Era Baptist Church
- No More Empty Pots
- North Omaha Area Health
- North Omaha Community Care Council (NOCCC)

Community Partnerships

- North Omaha Neighborhood Association (NONA)
- Omaha 360
- Omaha City Planning Department
- Omaha Community Foundation
- Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance
- Omaha Housing Authority
- Omaha Police Department – North & South
- Omaha Public Library
- Omaha Public Schools, African American Achievement Council & Latino Academic Achievement Council
- Omaha Public School District Office of Community, School & Family Engagement
- Omaha YMCA
- One World Community Health Centers
- Project Extra Mile
- Proteus
- Public Health Association of Nebraska (PHAN)
- Red Bridge Ministries
- Refugee Empowerment Network
- Refugee Health Collaborative Region 5 and 6 Behavioral Healthcare
- Region 5 Behavioral Healthcare
- Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare
- Rural Community Workers' Alliance
- The Siena Francis House
- South Omaha Community Care Council (SOCCC)
- Susan G. Komen Foundation, Nebraska
- St. Luke's Lutheran Church
- The Wellbeing Partners
- Tobacco Education & Advocacy of the Midlands (T.E.A.M.)
- Tobacco Free Nebraska
- Tobacco Free Sarpy
- UNL Extension
- UNO, Office of Latino Latin American Studies (OLLAS)
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Omaha Office
- Wakanda Arts, LLC
- Women's Center for Advancement
- World Speaks

Community Engagement Presentations

Ramos, A.K. Host for “*NIH All of Us Researcher Workbench*” Presentation for Great Plains IDeA-CTR/Department of Health Promotion Seminar, January 25, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Engaging with diverse people: Practical tools for outreach and education.* Invited presentation at American Society for Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), July 13, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Latina leadership in the Omaha area.* Presentation for the Omaha Women’s Fund, Women’s Circle, October 6, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Latino leadership and community health.* Invited speaker on *Courageous Mujer* podcast, October 9, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Latino health: A celebration of Hispanic heritage and esperanza.* Presentation for UNMC Monroe-Meyer Institute, November 4, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. Moderator for a panel presentation *Raising the cloak of invisibility for vulnerable populations.* Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference, November 9, 2021.

Sanchez, M.J. *Adverse childhood experiences and behavior and patient activation in the management of hypertension.* Presentation at the Latinas, Tabaco y Cáncer group meeting, September 17, 2021.

Trinidad, N.T., Ramos, A.K., & Carvajal-Suarez, M. *Bottom line benefits for prioritizing health.* Presentation at the Nebraska Hispanic Chamber of Commerce breakfast, July 30, 2021.

King, K. *Master Mind: A Mental Health Intervention for Black Fathers in North Omaha.* Creighton University HS-MACA, Common Ground Series, Omaha, NE., March 19, 2021.

King, K. *Vaccine Hesitancy.* NET Radio interview, February 24, 2021. Available at <http://netnebraska.org/basic-page/news/speaking-nebraska>

Labisi, T. *Viral Suppression Among Women Living with HIV.* Podcast interview with Consultant360, September 2021. Available at <https://www.consultant360.com/podcast/infectious-diseases/idweek/titilola-labisi-mha-mph-viral-suppression-among-women-living-hiv>

Labisi, T., Tchouankam, T. *Master Mind: A Mental Health Intervention for Black Fathers and HIV Care for Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic.* 2021 Annual American Public Health Association, October 2021.

Community Engagement Presentations

Ern, J. *Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccination in Nebraska: A look at Vulnerable Populations and Disparities in Vaccine Distribution.* Nebraska Healthcare Quality Risk Safety Membership Meeting. December 2021.



Ern, J. *Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccination in Nebraska: A look at Vulnerable Populations and Disparities in Vaccine Distribution.* Nebraska Emergency Response Coordinators Workshop. October 2021.

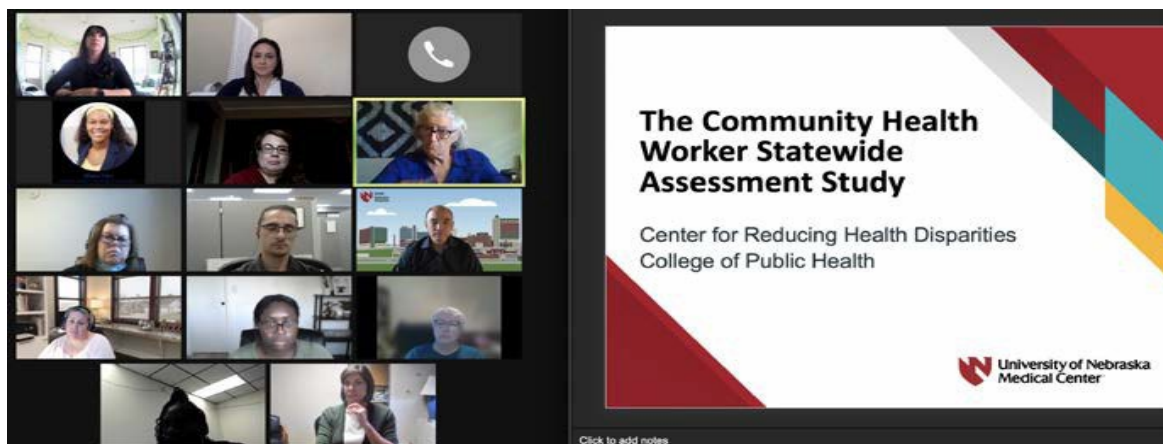


Ern, J. *A Statewide Assessment of Mental Health Needs and Services Among Children in Nebraska.* Nebraska Partnership for Mental Healthcare Access in Pediatrics Technical Workgroup No. 2 for Culturally- and Linguistically Appropriate Services and Equity. October 2021

Ern, J. *A Statewide Assessment of Mental Health Needs and Services Among Children in Nebraska.* Nebraska Partnership for Mental Healthcare Access in Pediatrics Technical Workgroup No. 3 for Family-Centered Care. October 2021



Ern, J. *The Community Health Worker Statewide Assessment Study.* Community Health Worker Consultant Trainer Cadre Meeting. September 2021.



Education And Scholarship



Courses Offered by CRHD Faculty

HPRO 915: Application of the Community-Based Participatory Research

Dr. King taught course HPRO 915: Application of the Community-Based Participatory Research Approach in the Fall 2021.

This course is designed for doctoral student where they partnered with community (Just for Kids Initiative) to understand the disproportionate rate of suspension of Pre-K through 2nd grade students. The course was co-taught by the director of the Justice for Kids Initiative, Mr. Leo Louis II.



Doctoral students in HPRO 915: Applications of the CBPR Approach meeting with community partners for class project.

CPH 514-HPRO 814: Planning and Evaluation

Dr. Su taught course CPH 514-HPRO 814: Planning and Evaluation during Spring 2021 with 45 students enrolled.

This course is designed to prepare the graduate student, professional student, or fellow to apply multi-leveled evidence-based policy and program approaches to improve public health. The course will guide students through planning and evaluating the impact of public health strategies based on the reach, effectiveness, scalability, implementation quality, and sustainability of these approached in complicated and complex systems.

Student Advising

Dr. Dejun Su mentored or advised the following students in their research work or degree programs in 2021: Hailey Humphrey, Karen Schmeits, Taylor Anderson, Joshua Qu, Na-Omi Hassane Dan Karami, Thao Mai-Thao Nguyen, Anna Norton, Rebecca Hiebert, Khalid Alshehri, Jessica Pahwa, Aiden Quinn, Gaurav Kumar, Jessica Ern, Yi Du, Mariam Taiwo, and Zijian Qin.

Dr. Athena Ramos currently advises five MPH students and three PhD students. Dr. Ramos has been the chair of the MPH student capstone committees for Karen Schmeits, Diana Molina, and Gabriella Ochoa. Dr. Ramos also serves on PhD dissertation committees for six students.

Educational Presentations & Guest Lectures

Ramos, A.K. *Perceptions of meatpacking workers regarding COVID-19: Essential but struggling for protections.* Guest lecture for COPH HPRO 970, February 8, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Health and well-being of immigrant and migrant farmworkers in the United States.* Guest lecture for AgriSafe Nurse Scholar program, February 12, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Understanding Latinos in the healthcare setting.* Invited professional development seminar for Methodist Health Systems, February 22, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Health-related social work with Latinos.* Guest lecture for UNO SOWK 8036, March 8, 2021. **Ramos, A.K.** *A career in public health: Service to communities.* Invited presentation for Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP), June 29, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Migrant and immigrant farmworker health in the Midwest.* Guest lecture for UNMC COPH ENV 811, July 13, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Training and managing vulnerable workers' safety on farms.* Invited guest lecture for SACURIMA International Training School on the Improving Safety Culture and Risk Management in Agriculture, Tartu, Estonia, July 26, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Latino health: Challenges and opportunities.* Invited guest lecture for Clarkson College, September 30, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Meat processing, essential workers, & the COVID-19 pandemic: Research from the field.* Guest lecture for COPH HPRO 970, November 8, 2021.

Su, D. *“Health disparities in the United States under COVID-19: what does it mean for the future of public Health?”* Invited presentation given at the Seminar hosted by the Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Su, D. *“Cancer Health Disparities in Nebraska: A Demonstration of the Status and Needs for Tailored Interventions for Migrants and Minority Populations in the Midwest”,* presented at the 2021 CEESP Workshop at the City University of New York, New York.

Su, D. *“Life Expectancy Calculator and Mapping for Nebraskans”* presented at the 2021 Digital Conference On Minority Health in Nebraska.

Su, D. *“A Data Driven Approach to Community Services”,* digital panel presentation at the 2021 Associations of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) ceremony for receiving the Harrison Spencer Award for Outstanding Community Service on behalf of the College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Jungyoon Kim, Alisha Aggarwal, **Khalid Alshehri**, Analisa McMillan, Paul Estabrooks: *Developing a Strategy to Facilitate the Adoption and Implementation of Evidence-based Colorectal Cancer Screening Interventions: Using Participatory Approach for Rural Health Systems*. Poster presented at 13th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health. December 2021.

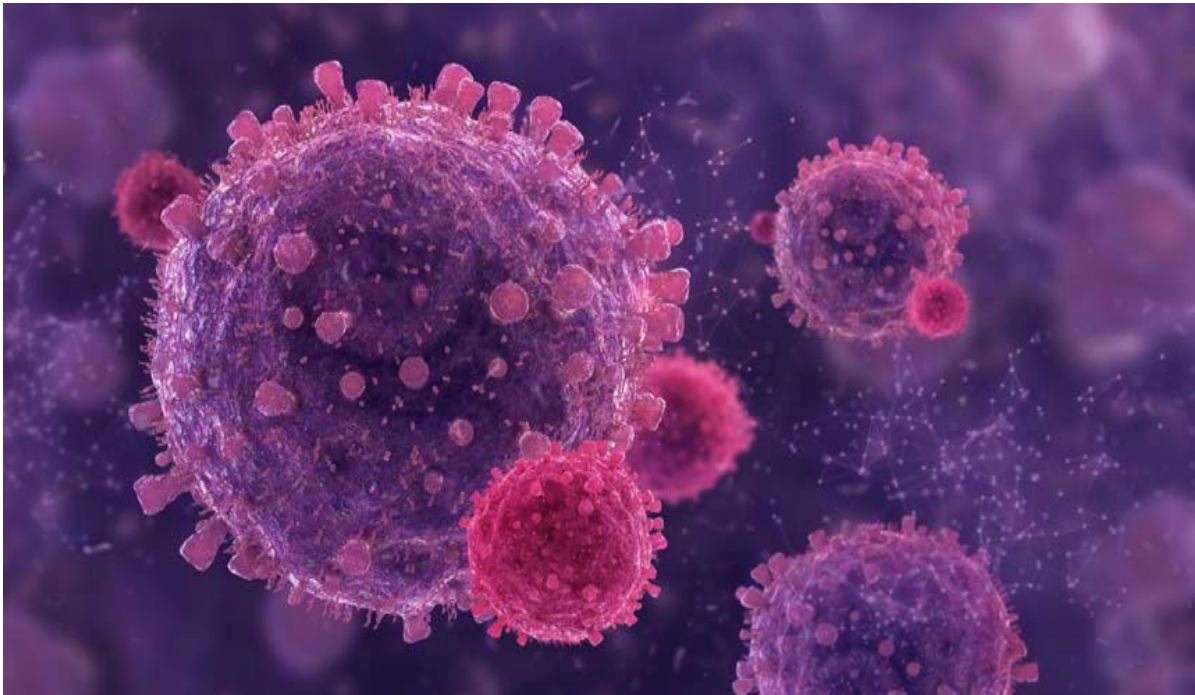
Dr. Keyonna King: *What is Program Evaluation and Why Do We Do It?* Omaha Community foundation Nonprofit Capacity Building Virtual Bootcamp. Omaha, NE. October 16, 2021.

Titilola Labisi: *Factors affecting lack of viral suppression in women living with HIV in the US*. Infectious Disease Week (ID Week), 2021. Virtual conference, September 2021.

Titilola Labisi: *Understanding HIV testing in Nebraska and possible solutions from health care providers' Perspective*. American Public Health Association. Denver, CO. October 2021.

Tatiana Tchouankam: *Recruiting Black Fathers for Mental Health Intervention*. American Public Health Association. Denver, CO. October 2021.

Research



Research

Faculty Assistance & Research Support to Develop and Implement Protocols and Proposals

The Center routinely works with faculty from across UNMC and other University of Nebraska campuses to develop research protocols that are community, cultural, and linguistically competent. The Center assists as a primary partner with faculty and department in the development stage of research proposals.

Furthermore, the Center provides an English-Spanish translation service for IRB-approved research documents. In 2021, the Center translated 25,064 words, producing a \$6,266 value to university investigators and community partners.

Research Projects and Grants

Feedyard 15 Safety Training Program

The Center is collaborating with Dr. Aaron Yoder on this study. The purpose of this study is to: (1) develop and implement a comprehensive feedyard safety and health training program and (2) evaluate the efficacy of the comprehensive feedyard safety and health training program. As part of the study, we are developing safety training modules for the Feedyard 15, the top 15 hazards found on cattle feedyards. We have also convened a Feedyard Safety Advisory Board, comprised of industry stakeholders in conjunction with the annual Nebraska Cattleman Convention and mid-year meetings. New this year, we have incorporated a sub-study to explore the concept of safety culture in the cattle feeding industry by conducting interviews with cattle feedyard managers.



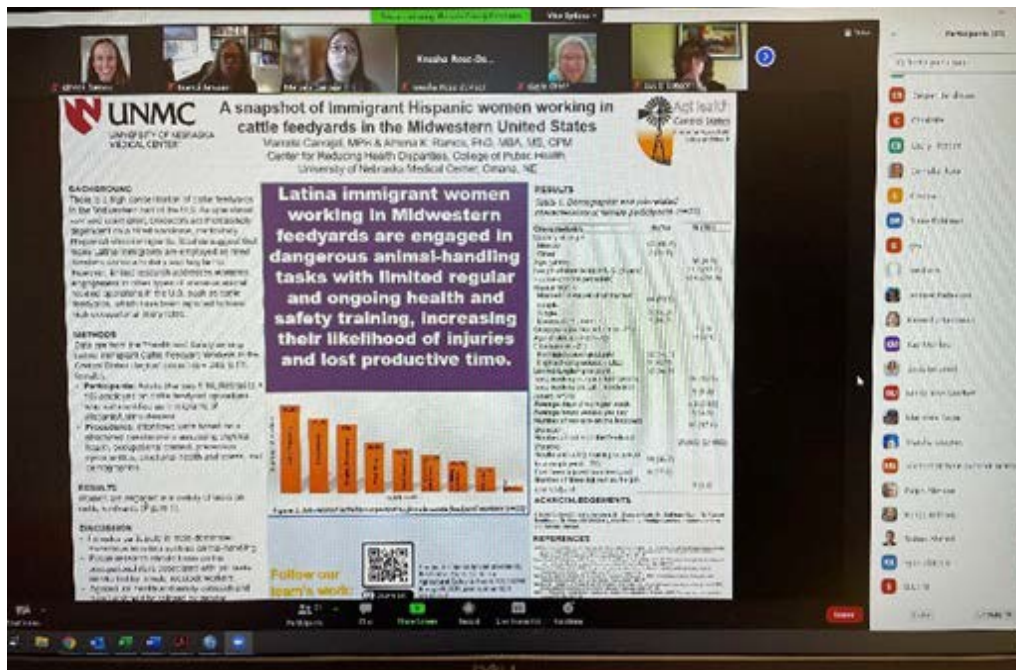
Project team members include Aaron Yoder (PI), Athena Ramos (Co-Investigator), Risto Rautiainen (Co-Investigator), Ellen Duysen, Mike Keenan, Casper Bendixsen, Ryan Klataske, Suraj Adhikari, Jill Oatman, and Sophia Quintero.

Health and Safety Among Immigrant Cattle Feedyard Workers in the Central States Region

This project seeks to: (1) Systematically explore and describe the health status and occupationally related risks among Latino immigrant cattle feedyard workers in Nebraska and Kansas; (2) Test the Ecological Stress-based Model of Immigrant Health and Safety, evaluating if workers' intrapersonal mechanisms (i.e., stress appraisal, ethnic identity, and cultural values) mitigate culture-related occupational stress and negative health outcomes; and (3) Review, develop, evaluate, and disseminate bilingual (English/Spanish) health and safety educational and policy material designed specifically for cattle feedyard operations.

Our team completed data collection with a total of 243 research interviews with immigrant cattle feedyard workers in both Nebraska and Kansas between May 2017-February 2020. We are working on data analyses and developing a series of journal articles to describe job-related health and safety risks among Latino immigrant cattle feedyard workers.





Our team has contributed content to a Feedyard 15 program, including supplemental modules on alcohol, fatigue, managing chronic health conditions, stress management, and pain. The project PI was a keynote speaker at the International Society of Agriculture Safety and Health (ISASH) Annual Conference where she shared findings from this project. The team presented at the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference and through various guest lectures at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Team members have participated in professional development activities including the ISASH annual conference, MRASH conference, National Latino Behavioral Health Conference, ASHCA AgSharp training, APHA Occupational Health and Safety Section’s Mid-Year conference, and various workshops and webinars throughout the year. We continue to build relationships with organizational partners including Nebraska Cattlemen, University of Nebraska Extension, AgriSafe Network, Nebraska Migrant Education Program, Proteus, Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska Appleseed, and Legal Aid of Nebraska.

Project team members include Athena Ramos (PI), Gustavo Carlo, Marcela Carvajal, Natalia Trinidad, Axel Fuentes, Rodrigo Gamboa, Casper Bendixsen, Meredith McGinley, Rishad Ahmed, and Maria Jose Sanchez.

Optimizing Community Efforts to Improve Physical Activity in Aging Hispanic/Latino Adults

The Center, Dr. Danae Dinkel (UNO), Dr. Julie Blaskewicz Boron (UNO), and the Latino Center of the Midlands partnered to apply for a UNMC Vice Chancellor of Research Health Disparities pilot grant and were awarded the grant. The goals of the project were to identify program components and test the feasibility of an intergenerational dance program that will impact socioecological and social cognitive constructs to improve levels of physical activity among Hispanic/Latino older adults. Our team has conducted a series of focus groups with older adults, youth, parents, and community stakeholders (n=41) as well as a survey of Hispanic/Latino older adults (n=103). Our team was trained to teach the Bailamos program, an evidence-based physical activity program using four styles of Latin dance including merengue, cha cha, bachata, and salsa. We collaborated with the Latino Center of the Midlands to implement an intergenerational pilot test of the Bailamos intervention in spring 2021.



Project team members include Athena Ramos (PI), Danae Dinkel (Co-Investigator), Julie Blaskewicz Boron (Co-Investigator), Marcela Carvajal, Natalia Trinidad, Sophia Quintero, Diana Molina, Karen Schmeits, Viridiana Almanza, and Craig Howell.

Public Perceptions of Tobacco Advertising

Our team conducted a survey of Douglas County residents to learn more about their perceptions regarding tobacco advertising and promotion. The results of this study will be used to tailor outreach and engagement strategies through the Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition (MOTAC). Karen Schmeits, one of our graduate student workers, presented the findings from this study at the COPH Research Day in April 2021.



Project team members include Athena Ramos (PI), Marcela Carvajal, Natalia Trinidad, and Karen Schmeits

SARS-CoV-2 Exposure Assessment in Meat Processing Facilities We secured private funding to conduct an exposure assessment of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in three meat processing facilities. The assessment included aerosol sample collections throughout three facilities including on the production floor, HVAC and air flow monitoring, and interviews with occupational health nursing staff and workers. The goal of the project is to identify opportunities to improve protections for workers as well as to define strategies for infectious disease preparedness.



Project team members include Athena Ramos (PI), Josh Santarpia (Co- Investigator), John Lowe (Co-Investigator), Josephine Lau, Shanna Ratnesar-Shumate, Karen Schemits, Dan Ackerman, Debayan Shom, Ryan Klataske, Sheri Rowland, Marcela Carvajal, Natalia Trinidad, Maria Cantu Hines, Rodrigo Gamboa, Diana Molina, and Gabriella Ochoa.

Whole-of-Community Systems Intervention for Youth Population Physical Activity

The goal of this project is to determine the impact of a capacity-building intervention on multi-level community systems outcomes as well as implementation systems drivers of multi-level youth population physical activity in rural communities.

Project team members include David Dzewaltowski (PI), Brandon Grimm (Co-Investigator), Athena Ramos (Co-Investigator), Richard Rosenkranz (Co-Investigator), Greg Welk (Co-Investigator), Regina Idoate, Marisa Rosen, Sara Norgales, Ann Essay, and many COPH students and undergraduate students.

(ONGOING) Generation Xchange Omaha (Gen X Omaha) Official Roll Out Coming 2022

This is an intergenerational program designed to increase regular physical activity and improve cognitive Simulation in older adults while simultaneously improving reading scores and decreasing behavioral Issues for elementary student in K-3rd grade.

Dr. Keyonna King, Ms. McLitta Wilson (principal at Lothrop Magnet Elementary), and Aaron Bowen (Executive director at Eastern Nebraska Community Action Partnership) made a collective decision that we are ready to roll out the program amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We realize the struggles that many teachers and principals are having during the pandemic and strongly believe the Generation Xchange program will support teachers during this critical time of need.

(NEW) Healthy at Home

The purpose of this project is to gather information from community partners to adapt an existing evidence- based weight loo intervention geared towards Black residents in Omaha.

The data from this project will be used to apply for a federal grant in early 2022.

Objective 1: Determined COVID-19 data trends of knowledge, behavior, beliefs, and health access by administering a survey from February 2021 to October 2021.

Objective 2: A conduit to subsidize the distribution of resources (e.g., masks) between key North Omaha service providers and residents' greatest areas of need based on monthly preliminary COVID-19 survey results.

Objective 3: Identified specific community needs and concerns related to COVID-19 for North Omaha residents by zip code.

Objective 4: Create and disseminate six population-specific PSAs on COVID-19 and preventive practices that will be informed by preliminary data from our COVID-19 survey.

Objective 5: Present overall survey and PSA evaluation findings to NOCCC member organizations, the North Omaha community residents, and other interested organizations invested in the health and well-being of North Omaha at a town hall meeting (March or April 2022).

Hispanic Family Connections



Among Latinos/Hispanics--the fastest growing population in United States—childhood obesity is rising. An effective strategy for controlling childhood obesity growth is family-based programs targeting the parents of overweight and obese children. However, evidence supporting these interventions among L/H families living in rural communities is missing. Therefore, the Hispanic Family Connections research study is an adaptation of an evidence-based childhood obesity intervention, which addresses childhood obesity risk factors like home environment, parental roles, excess weight, physical activity, and healthy eating among Latinos/Hispanic (L/H) families living in rural communities across Nebraska. More specifically,

the study has been designed to use cultural adaptation and implementation science frameworks to evaluate the feasibility of delivering a culturally appropriate family-based childhood obesity (FBCO) program via an automated telephone system (IVR) to L/H families living in rural Nebraska. This project is funded by NIH via the COBRA grant at the Nebraska Center for Prevention of Obesity Diseases through Dietary Molecules (NPOD). This investigation is a mixed-methods feasibility trial for L/H families with overweight or obese children, with the first aim of the study to collaboratively adapt all intervention materials to better fit the rural L/H community profile, including translation of materials to Spanish, inclusion of culturally relevant content and images, and use of health communication strategies to address different levels of health literacy.

To achieve this aim, we partnered with four rural Nebraska health districts: Central District Health Department, Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska, Two Rivers Public Health department, and East Central District Health Department. We created a Community Work Group (HFC-CWG) that together, working with directors, providers, as well as community health workers and community liaisons in each of the four geographic areas, we recruited parents to participate in virtual and in-person focus groups—facilitated in either Spanish or English—that introduced and requested feedback about the adapted intervention materials. This year alone we complete 12 CWG meetings with our community partners. Table 1 below illustrates a summary of participants and the preliminary results from the focus groups. We are currently analyzing the focus group data to evaluate the cultural relevance, suitability, and usability of the adapted intervention materials and mode of delivery.

Phase 1 Preliminary Results

As a part of Aim 1, eight (n=8) Focus Groups (FG) in total were conducted across four Health Districts (HD)—that is two focus groups per district. Three (n=3) FG were held on July, three (n=3) in August, and two (n=2) in October. There were 26 participants in total, greatest participation (i.e., the highest number of participants in a FG) was witnessed in TRHD, which had six participants (23.08%). Conversely, the district with the least participation (i.e., the lowest number of participants in a FG) was evidenced in ECDHD, which had one participant (3.85%). Seven (n=7) FGs were conducted in Spanish according to participants' preferences, with six (n=6) of the eight FGs being held virtually using the Zoom platform (See Table 1).

Table 1 – Focus Groups characteristics according to Community partners areas, dates, and number of participants:

Community Partner	Language	Type *	Participants (n)	%
Area 1	Spanish	Virtual	2	7.69
	Spanish	Virtual	4	15.38
Area 2	English	Virtual	4	15.38
	Spanish	Virtual	2	7.69
Area 3	Spanish	Hybrid	6	23.08
	Spanish	In-Person	5	19.23
Area 4	Spanish	Virtual	2	7.69
	Spanish	Virtual	1	3.85

Virtual Zoom Meeting. Hybrid: Participants together at one community place (in person), and virtual mediation by Zoom. In-Person: Participants and mediator together at one community place

Community Partner Language Type* Participants (n) % Area 1 Spanish Virtual 2 7.69 Spanish Virtual 4 15.38
Area 2 English Virtual 4 15.38 Spanish Virtual 2 7.69 Area 3 Spanish Hybrid 6 23.08

Of the four health departments, 40 people were invited to participate in the FGs, and of those, 26 attended the meetings. Most participants were female (96.15%), with a mean age of 39.2 years and a mean number of children of 3.6. Guatemala and Mexico were most represented (30.77% each) regarding the country of birth, followed by the USA (15.38%). 92.31% have reliable access to the internet, with 69.23% accessing this service through Smartphones—with 50% using the IOS/Apple operational system.

Next Steps

Next year, through Aim 2, we will randomly assign participant dyads (parent and child) to either Family Connections or a waitlist standard care group and determine overall study reach, preliminary effectiveness in reducing child BMI z- scores, potential for program adoption, implementation, and sustainability through local health departments. We will also evaluate health department perceptions of innovation, context, recipient characteristics, in addition to Family Connections participants' view of the intervention (i.e., relative advantage, observability, trialability, complexity, compatibility).

At the conclusion of this investigation, the study will answer three important questions: (1) Is a telephone delivered FBCO program in rural Nebraska culturally relevant, usable and acceptable by L/H families? (2) Is a telephone delivered FBCO program effective at reducing BMI z-scores in L/H children living in rural Nebraska? and (3) What real-world institutional and contextual factors influence the impact of the intervention and might affect its potential ability to sustainably engage a meaningful population of L/H families who stand to benefit? This project has been designed to generate locally and globally relevant evidence on a culturally appropriate technology delivered FBCO intervention for L/H families in rural communities.



Hybrid focus group with rural Hispanic families at a local library



Focus groups at a rural library – Dr. Brito and Dr. Almeida with the support of the Two Rivers Community Partners: Health Program Nurse Rosa Pinon, CHW Maria Barocio and Clinical Services Supervisor, Von Lutz.

Research Projects and Grants

“A Community Assessment to Recommend an Optimal Plan for COVID-19 Vaccination in Nebraska” (PI: Dejun Su)

Funded by Holland Foundation, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln

November 1, 2020-October 31, 2021

Total Budget: \$120,000

The purpose of this project is to conduct a statewide assessment of awareness, willingness, and capacity for receiving COVID-19 vaccines among Nebraskans and inform vaccination planning to address related disparities.

Role: PI: Dejun Su with 25% of efforts

“Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program” (PD: Jane Potter)

Funded by Health Resources and Services Administration (HSRA) grant

July 1, 2019-June 30, 2024

Total budget for evaluation: \$975,002

The purpose of this project is to develop a health care workforce in the Omaha metropolitan area that maximizes patient and family engagement and improves health outcomes for older adults by integrating geriatrics with primary care.

Role: Co-I: Dejun Su with 3% effort

Program Evaluation for the “Nebraska Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program” (PD: Sara Morgan)

Funded by Health Services Research Administration

February 1, 2019-September 30, 2023

\$2,225,000

The Center for Reducing Health Disparities contracted with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to conduct data management and program evaluation for the Nebraska Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program.

Role: Sub-contract PI: Dejun Su with 25% effort

Understanding and growing the role of CHW in improving outcomes for maternal and child populations (Su, PI)

Funded by the Nebraska Title V Maternal and Health Block Grant

July 31, 2020-July 30, 2021

\$44,469

The purpose of this project is to conduct secondary data analysis of the CHW workforce statewide assessment data to understand how CHWs can improve maternal and child health in Nebraska and assess rural-urban disparities.

Role: PI: Dejun Su with 20% effort

“Sustaining the Reach of a Scalable Weight Loss Intervention through Financial Incentives: an Exploratory Randomized Controlled Trial” (Su, PI)

2019 Great Plains IDeA-CTR Pilot grant

July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021

\$50,000

The primary goal of the proposed study is to assess the comparative effectiveness of the use of different financial

incentives in sustaining the reach of an established, community-based, technology-facilitated weight loss program in a primary care setting.

Role: PI: Dejun Su

Dr. Brito’s research program focuses on translational science using health communication and community engaged approaches to address health disparities and increase health equity in the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases. Applying health communication strategies to improve program materials, and developing partnerships with clinical partners, communities, individuals, and families in the process of getting evidence-based programs to those most affected by chronic conditions. Her current work focuses on seeking sustainable culturally relevant solutions to the growing obesity (children and adults) and diabetes epidemic, in particular as it has a disproportional negative impact on the lives of those who are the most vulnerable in our societies.

“Adapting an evidence-based, technology-supported family-based childhood obesity intervention for a rural Latino population – Hispanic Family Connections.

Funder: NIH/NPOD (Direct: \$450,000; Total: \$900,000).

Purpose: Use cultural adaptation and implementation science frameworks to evaluate the feasibility of delivering a culturally appropriate family-based childhood obesity (FBCO) program via an automated telephone system (IVR) to L/H families living in rural Nebraska. We will conduct a mixed method feasibility trial for L/H families with overweight or obese children.

Role: Principal-Investigator (PI).

Understanding organizational and individual factors to inform the cultural adaptation and testing of a technology-delivered weight management program for Hispanic adults and children in rural Nebraska.

Funder: Vice Chancellor Office for Research, University of Nebraska Diversity Funds (Direct: \$150,000; Total: \$150,000).

Purpose: To identify organizational and individual factors that may inform the cultural adaptation Technology-based weight management programs for Hispanic adults and children living in rural Nebraska.

Role: Principal-Investigator (PI).

Levering existing community partnerships to culturally adapt a technology-based weight lost program

for rural middle-aged LatinX men.

CRHD/HPRO Community-Engaged Health Disparities/Health Equity Award

(Direct: \$57,953; Total: \$57,953)

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Almeida, FA).

Cultural adaptation and prototype packaging of a technology-delivered diabetes prevention program for Hispanics in rural Nebraska.

Funder: Nebraska Research Foundation: University of Nebraska Diversity Funds.

(Direct: \$100,000; Total: \$100,000)

Purpose: The goal of this trial is to culturally adapt a technology-based diabetes prevention program for Hispanics living in rural Nebraska.

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Almeida, FA).

Understandability and actionability of intervention materials from a lifestyle modification program (VAMOS) being delivered in community settings in Florianopolis, Brazil.

Funder: ISBM 2018 Health and Behavioral International Collaborative Award

(Direct: \$3,000; Total: \$3,000)

Purpose: To adapt and evaluate the understandability and actionability of intervention materials from a lifestyle modification program (VAMOS) being delivered in community setting using clear communication

strategies. Specific aims: (1) to conduct a translation and adaptation of the PEMAT tool to the Brazilian context; (2) use the PEMAT tool to evaluate both printed and online version of the VAMOS intervention materials; (3) adapt intervention materials for future use; (4) disseminate the results. This study will result in the translation and adaptation of a valuable tool to help improve health communication, which will be freely available to researchers, practitioners, and community members from Brazil.

Role: Principal-Investigator

Community-Informed Mobile Self-Monitoring Trial for Weight Loss in Rural Men.

Funder: NIH/National Institute for Nursing Research (R15-1R15NR017522-01)

(Direct: \$ 750,000, Total: \$ 1,147,500)

Purpose: Using a pragmatic randomized controlled trial and community engaged research approaches this study proposes to evaluate a 3-month mobile self-monitoring application (app) with Wi-Fi scale and text messaging intervention (MT+: mobile technology plus) for achieving weight loss in overweight and obese rural men.

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Christine Eisenhauer)

Evaluating Physical Activities in primary care settings in Brazil

Funder: Brazilian Health Ministry & CNPQ (R\$250,000)

Purpose: project of national grid with the aim to recommend specific physical activities to be performed with Primary Care users of the Universal Health System (SUS) in Brazil. Aim 1) List, test and validate a check list of successful practices of physical activity which cause a high impact over population's health; 2) Classify the most successful activities from the checklist; 3) Prepare themed maps of the program and/or projects distributed over Brazil, considering primary care characteristics and the effective practices of physical activity. 4) Recommend the effective practices in physical activity to be applied over all the SUS of Brazil. The project consists of a mixture (multi-method research) and covers all the 5.570 cities of Brazil over the 26 states distributed in south, southeast, center-west, northeast and north regions.

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Tania Benedetti)

Development, validation, and evaluation of support technologies for health care.

Funder: Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development – CNPq (Total: R\$90,000).

Purpose: 1) Develop technologies such as web-app, virtual reality applied to health care, education, and patient safety; 2) Identify what has been produced from technologies applied to health care, education, and patient safety; 3) Create a suggestive protocol with facilitating components and processes to support health care, education, and patient safety; 4) Develop prototypes of technologies applied to health care, education, and patient safety; 5) Validate the construction, foundation, functionality, and design of prototype technologies applied to health care, education, and patient safety.

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Tourinho, FSV).

Preventing Diabetes through internet-based Coaching for Translation and Scalability.

Omada Health, Inc.

Overall goal: To determine the effectiveness of an internet-based health coaching weight loss program to prevent type 2 diabetes among prediabetic adults.

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Estabrooks) 9/14/17-10/13/21

Khalid Alshehri, Ethnic/Racial discrimination during the pandemic using a primary collected data (HEPA) that was collected by the Center in collaboration with other partners.

Khalid Alshehri, COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy.

Khalid Alshehri, Factors impacting COVID-19 vaccine variations across the Globe.

Original Peer-Reviewed Publications

Bessler, C., Crawford, K., Chandler, D., & **Ramos, A.K.** (2021). The NIOSH Agricultural Centers' YouTube Channel: Time series modeling of viewership of agricultural health and safety videos. *Journal of Agromedicine*. DOI: 10.1080/1059924X.2021.2000907

Dai, D., **Ramos, A.K.**, Faseru, B., Hill, J., & Sussman, S. (2021). Racial disparities of e-cigarette use among U.S. youth: 2014-2019. *American Journal of Public Health*, 111, 2050-2058. DOI: 10.2105/AJPH.2021.306448

Rowland, S.A., **Ramos, A.K.**, **Carvajal-Suarez-M.**, **Trinidad, N.**, Johnson-Beller, R., Struwe, L., & Pozehl, B. (2021). Musculoskeletal pain and cardiovascular risk in Hispanic/Latino meatpacking workers. *Workplace Health & Safety*, 69(12). DOI: 10.1177/2165079921101690

Ramos, A.K., Adhikari, S., Rautiainen, R.H., & Yoder, A.M. (2021). Occupational injuries among Latino/a immigrant cattle feedyard workers in the central states region of the United States. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18, 8821. DOI: 10.3390/ijerph18168821

Grimm, B., Palm, D., & **Ramos, A.K.** (2021). The skills most important for local health departments for responding to community needs and improving health outcomes. *Journal of Community Health*. DOI: 10.1007/s10900-021-01020-0

Kellstedt, D.K., Schenkelberg, M.A., Essay, A.M., Welk, G.J., Rosenkranz, R.R., Idoate, R., **Ramos, A.K.**, Grimm, B., & Dziewaltowski, D.A. (2021). Rural community systems: Youth physical activity promotion through community collaboration. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 23, 101486. DOI: 10.1016/j.pmedr.2021.101486

Ramos, A.K., **Carvajal-Suarez-M.**, **Trinidad, N.**, **Quintero, S.**, **Molina, D.**, Johnson-Beller, R., & Rowland, S.A. (2021). Health and well-being of Hispanic/Latino meatpacking workers in the Midwest: An application of the Health Belief Model. *Workplace Health & Safety*, 69(12), 564-572. DOI: 10.1177/21650799211016907

Ramos, A.K., Lowe, A., Herstein, J.J., **Trinidad, N.**, **Carvajal-Suarez, M.**, **Quintero, S.A.**, **Molina, D.**, Schwedhelm, S., & Lowe, J.J. (2021). A rapid-response survey of essential workers in Midwestern meatpacking plants: Perspectives on COVID-19 response in the workplace. *Journal of Environmental Health*, 84(1), 16-25.

Ramos, A.K., McGinley, M., & Carlo, G. (2021). The relations of workplace safety perceived occupational stress, and adjustment among Latino/a immigrant cattle feedyard workers in the United States. *Safety Science*, 139, 105262. DOI: 10.1016/j.ssci.2021.105262

Dai, H., **Ramos, A.**, Tamrakar, N., Cheney, M., Samson, K., & Grimm, B. (2021). School personnel's responses to school-based vaping prevention program: A qualitative study. *Health Behavior and Policy Review*, 8(2), 130-147. DOI: 10.14485/HBPR.8.2.4

McCloskey, L., Berstein, J., Amutah-Onukagha, N., Anthony, J., Barger, M., Belanoff, C., Bennett, T., ... **Ramos, A.K.**, ...Zera, C. (2021). Bridging the chasm between pregnancy and health over the life course: A national agenda for research and action. *Journal of Women's Health Issues*. DOI: 10.1016/j.whi.2021.01.002

Herstein, J.J., Degarege, A., Stover, D., Austin, C., Schwedhelm, M.M., Lawler, J.V., Lowe, J.J., **Ramos, A.K.**, & Donahue, M. (2021). COVID-19 and the meat processing industry in Nebraska: Characteristics of cases among workers and effectiveness of select risk mitigation measures. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 27(4). DOI: 10.3201/eid2704.204800

Ramos, A.K. & Schneker, M. (2021). Hired and contract agricultural workforce – Sustainable solutions. *Journal of Agromedicine*, 26(1), 45-46. DOI: 10.1080/1059924X.2021.1849499

Ramos, A.K., Carvajal-Suarez, M., Trinidad, N., Quintero, S., Molina, D., & Rowland, S. (2021). “No somos maquinas” (We’re not machines): Worker perspectives of safety culture in meatpacking plants in the Midwest. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*, 64(2), 84-96. DOI: 10.1002/ajim.23206

Ramos, A.K., Deal, A., Quintero, S., Wilson, F.A. (in press). Immigrant-focused medical legal partnerships: An innovation from the field to improve immigrant health and social well-being. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*.

Rowland, S.A., **Ramos, A.K.**, Trinidad, N., Quintero, S., Johnson Beller, R., Struwe, L. & Pozehl, B. (in press). mHealth intervention to improve cardiometabolic health in rural Hispanic adults: A pilot study. *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*.

Tchouankam T, Estabrooks P, Cloyd A, Notice M, Teel-Williams M, Smolsky A, Burnett P, Alexis G, Conley T, Partridge E, Hogan P, Thorpe RJ, **King KM**. Recruiting Low-Income African American Men in Mental Health Research: A Community-Based Participatory Research Feasibility Study. *American Journal of Men's Health*. 2021;15(3). <https://doi.org/10.1177/15579883211018418>

Clarke MA, Lyden ER, Ma J, **King KM**, Siahpush M, **Michaud T** et al. Sociodemographic Differences and Factors Affecting Patient Portal Utilization. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. 2021 Aug;8(4):879-891. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-020-00846-z>

Idoate R, Gilbert M, **King KM**, Spellman L, McWilliams B, Strong B et al. Urban American Indian Community Health Beliefs Associated with Addressing Cancer in the Northern Plains Region. *Journal of Cancer Education*. 2021 Oct;36(5):996-1004. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-020-01727-z>

King KM, Estabrooks P, Tchouankam T, et al. 18333 Utilizing community engagement approaches in translational research. *J Clin Trans Sci*. 2021;5(s1):75-75. doi:10.1017/cts.2021.595

Estabrooks P, King K, Palm D, Keeler H. 79602 Designing and Implementing an Assessment of Collaboration for a Clinical and Translational Research Community Advisory Board. *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science*. 2021;5(s1):81-81. doi:10.1017/cts.2021.611

Watanabe-Galloway S, **Estabrooks P**, Palm D, Navarrette S, Keeler H, **King K**, Frankel E. 91756 A participatory approach to develop regional health priorities for clinical and translational research. *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science*. 2021;5(s1):136-137. doi:10.1017/cts.2021.749

Labisi T, Fadul N, Coleman J, Podany A, **King K**. 884. Title: Factors Associated with Lack of Viral Suppression Among Women Living with HIV in the United States: An Integrative Review Open Forum Infectious Diseases. 2021 Nov;8(Suppl 1): S533-S534. PMID: PMC8644689.

Michaud TL, Hill JL, Estabrooks PA, **Su D**. Cost analysis of a remote patient monitoring program for post-discharge patients with type 2 diabetes. Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare. January 2021. doi:10.1177/1357633X20985393

Zhang D, Li G, Mu L, Thapa J, Li Y, Chen Z, Shi L, **Su D**, Son H, Pagán JA. Trends in Medical School Application and Matriculation Rates Across the United States from 2001 to 2015: Implications for Health Disparities. Acad Med. 2021 Mar 2. doi:10.1097/ACM.0000000000004033. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33656008.

Su, D., Samson, K., Hanson, C., Berry, A., Li, Y., Shi, L., Zhang, D. (accepted for publication April 2021). Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Birth Outcomes: A Decomposition Analysis of Contributing Factors. Forthcoming in Preventive Medicine Reports.

Wan, N., McCrum, M., Han, J., Lizotte, S., **Su, D.**, Wen, M., and S. Zeng. 2021. Measuring Spatial Access to Emergency General Surgery Services: Does the Method Matter? Health Services and Outcomes Research Methodology (accepted for publication in June 2021)

Matthews TA, Chen L, Chen Z, Han X, Shi L, Li Y, Wen M, Zhang D, Li H, **Su D**, Li J. Negative Employment Changes During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Psychological Distress: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Survey in the U.S. J Occup Environ Med. 2021 Jul 14. doi:10.1097/JOM.0000000000002325. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34267107.

Zhang D, Shi L, Han X, Li Y, Jalajel NA, Patel S, Chen Z, Chen L, Wen M, Li H, Chen B, Li J, **Su D**. Disparities in telehealth utilization during the COVID-19 pandemic: Findings from a nationally representative survey in the United States. J Telemed Telecare. 2021 Oct 11:1357633X211051677. doi:10.1177/1357633X211051677. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34633882.

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Hill, T., Wen, M., Ellison, CG., Dowd-Arrow, B., **Su, D.** (2021). Modeling Recent Gun Purchases: Toward a Social Epidemiology of the Pandemic Arms Race. Forthcoming in Preventive Medicine Reports.

Katula JA, Dressler EV, Kittel CA, Harvin LN, Almeida, FA, Wilson KE, **Michaud TL**, Porter GC, Brito FA, Goessl CL, Jasik CB, Castro Sweet CM, Schwab R, & Estabrooks PA. Effects of a Digital Diabetes Prevention Program on HbA1c and Body Weight in Prediabetes: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. 2021. (in press)

You, W, Yuan, Y, Boyle, KJ, **Michaud, T**, Parmeter, C, Seidel, RW, Estabrooks, PA. Examining Ways to Improve Weight Control Programs' Population Reach and Representativeness: A Discrete Choice Experiment of Financial Incentives. *Pharmacoeconomics Open*. 2021. (in press)

Hill JL, Heelan KA, Bartee RT, Wichman C, **Michaud T**, Abbey BM, Porter G, Golden C, Estabrooks PA. A Type III Hybrid Effectiveness–Implementation Pilot Trial Testing Dissemination and Implementation Strategies for a Pediatric Weight Management Intervention: The Nebraska Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration Project. *Childhood Obesity*. 2021 Sep 1;17(Supplement 1) :S-70.

Porter, G.C., **Michaud, T.**, Schwab, R., Hill, J., Estabrooks, P. Reach Outcomes and Costs of Different Physician Referral Strategies for a Weight Management Program Among Rural Primary Care Patients: A Type III Hybrid Effectiveness-Implementation Trial. *JMIR Formative Research*. 2021; 5(10): e28622.

Wilson KE, Alneuda FA, Brito FA, Castro Sweet C, Katula JA, **Michaud TL**, Schwab R, Estabrooks PA. Psychometric Assessment of the Brief Weight-Loss-Related Behavior Self-Efficacy Survey in Adults with Prediabetes. *Psychological Assessment*. 2021, 33(11), 1089–1099.

Porter, G.C., Schwab, R., Hill, J.L., Bartee, R.T., Heelan, K.A., **Michaud, T.L.**, & Estabrooks, P.A. Examining the feasibility and characteristics of realistic weight management support for patients: Focus groups with rural, micropolitan, and metropolitan primary care providers. *Preventive Medicine Reports*. 2021 Sep 1:23:101390.

Michaud TL, * Wilson K, Silva F, Almeida FA, Katula J, Estabrooks P. Costing a population health management approach for participant recruitment to a diabetes prevention study. *Translational Behavioral Medicine*. 2021, 11(10): 1865-1874.

Wilson KE, **Michaud TL**, Almeida FA, Schwab RJ, Porter GC, Aquilina KH, Brito FA, Golden CA, Dressler EV, Kittel CA, Harvin LN, Boggs AE, Katula JA, & Estabrooks PA. Using a population health management approach to enroll participants in a diabetes prevention trial: Reach outcomes of the PREDICTS randomized clinical trial. *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, 2021, 11(5): 1066-1077.

Eisenhauer, C., Kupzyk, K., **Silva, F.**, Yoder, A. Almeida, F., Johnson-Beller, R., Miller, J., & Hageman, P. 2021. Mobile Health Assisted Self-Monitoring is Feasible for Supporting Weight Loss in Rural Men: A Pragmatic Randomized Control Trial. *BMC Public Health*, 21, 1568 (2021).
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-11618-7>

Alves TF, Almeida FA, **Brito FA**, Tourinho FSV, de Andrade SR. 2021. Regulation and Use of Health Information Systems in Brazil and Abroad: Integrative Review. *Computers, Informatics, Nursing: CIN*. 2021 Nov. DOI: 10.1097/cin.0000000000000828. PMID: 34812780.

Wilson, K.E., Michaud, T.L., Sweet, C.C., Katula, J.A., Almeida, F.A., **Brito, F.A.**, Schwab, R. and Estabrooks, P.A., 2021. Psychometric assessment of the Brief Weight-Loss-Related Behavior Self-Efficacy Survey in adults with prediabetes. *Psychological assessment*, 33(11), pp.1089-1099.

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Siewert JS, Alvarez AM, **Brito FA**, Santos SM, Santana RF, Freitas MA. 2021. Dementia in institutionalized elderly: a nursing team's experiences and perceptions. *Texto & contexto enferm*, pp. e20200131-e20200131. <https://doi.org/10.1590/10.1590/1980-265X-TCE-2020-0131>

Ribeiro CG, Konrad LM, Tomicki C, Almeida FA, **Brito FA**, Benedetti TR. 2021. Evaluation of the teaching material of the “active life improving health” Program (VAMOS), version 3.0. *e-Revista LOGO*, 10(1), 71-87.

Jungyoon Kim, Paul Estabrooks, Alisha Aggarwal, Analisa McMillan, **Khalid Alshehri**. Developing a Co-Production Strategy to Facilitate the Adoption and Implementation of Evidence-Based Colorectal Cancer Screening Interventions for Rural Health Systems: A Pilot Study, 01 November 2021, PREPRINT (Version 2) available at Research Square <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-934240/v2>

Public-Facing Publications

Khazanchi, R., **Ramos, A.K.**, De Alba, A., Bares, S.H., & Marcelin, J.R. (2021, Jan 15). Vaccine prioritization should be based on science and safety. U.S. News & World Report. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/2021-01-15/vaccine-prioritization-should-be-based-on-science-and-safety-not-immigration-status>

Ramos, A.K. (2021, March). Managing stress and mental health in uncertain times. Nebraska Cattleman Magazine. www.necattleman.org/NCMar2021

Media Interviews

Dr. Athena Ramos was featured on the Women in Ag Science website for her work with farmworker health and safety.

Dr. Athena Ramos was a guest on Speaking of Nebraska on March 18, 2021, regarding the Latino experience in Nebraska.

Dr. Athena Ramos was quoted regarding COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among Latino populations on NET. UNMC Professor: Vaccine Hesitancy In Latino Population Is 'A Very Complex Question' <http://netnebraska.org/article/news/1257416/unmc-professor-vaccine-hesitancy-latino-population-very-complex-question>

Dr. Athena Ramos was featured in an NET story about COVID-19 vaccination among Latinos in Nebraska: http://netnebraska.org/article/news/1261238/latinos-rural-nebraska-still-lag-vaccination-rates#disqus_thread

Dr. Keyonna King was interviewed by NET radio conducted on February 24, 2021, to discuss vaccine hesitancy. <http://netnebraska.org/basic-page/news/speaking-nebraska>

Titilola Labisi was interviewed on viral suppression among women living with HIV by Consultant360 in September 2021.

Manuscripts Under Review

Rowland, S.A., **Ramos, A.K.**, Trinidad, N., Quintero, S., Johnson-Beller, R., Struwe, L. & Pozehl, B. (2021). Feasibility and acceptability of an mHealth intervention to improve cardiometabolic health in rural Hispanic adults.

Ramos, A.K., Schmeits, K., Carvajal-Suarez, M., Trinidad, N., McGinley, M., & Carlo, G. (2021). Latino/a immigrant workers' perceptions of safety climate on cattle feedyards.

Watanabe-Galloway, S., Ratnapradipa, K., Subramanian, R., Famojuro, O., **Ramos, A.K.**, Schmidt, C., & Farazi, E. (2021). mHealth interventions to increase cancer screening rates in Latino populations: A scoping review.

Reyes, S.L., Acosta, L.M., Domínguez, V., **Ramos, A.K.**, Andrews, A.R. (2021). Immigrant and US-born migrant farmworkers: Dual paths to discrimination-related health outcomes.

Elliott, K.C., Lincoln, J.M., Syron, L.N., Flynn, M.A., Levin, J.L, Smidt, M., Dzugan, J., & **Ramos, A.K.** (2020). Working hours, sleep, and fatigue in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector.

Dineen, K.K., Lowe, A., Kass, N.E., Lee, L.M., Wynia, M.K., Mohapatra, S., Voo, T.C., Lookadoo, R., **Ramos, A.K.**, Herstein, J.J., Donovan, S., Schwedhelm, S., & Sederstrom, N. (2020). Treating workers as essential too: An ethical framework.

Ramos, A.K., Su, D., Correa, A. & Trinidad, N. (2020). Parenting education preferences of Latino parents in Nebraska: An exploratory mixed-methods study.

Ramos, A.K., Adhikari, S., Rautiainen, R.H., & Yoder, A.M. (2020). Protecting livestock workers: Exploring data on fatal and non-fatal injuries in agriculture.

Alvarez, C., Sabina, C., Brockie, T., Perrin, N., **Sanchez, M.J.**, Escobar-Acosta, L., Vraney, E., Cooper, L., & Hill-Briggs, F. Patterns of adverse childhood experiences, social problem-solving, and mental health among Latina immigrants.

Partovi, R., Calzada, E.J., **Sanchez, M.J.**, Roche, K.M., & Little, T.D. The mediating role of home-school dissonance in linking maternal discrimination to Latinx adolescent academic performance.

King KM, Idoate R, Allick C, Leon MA, Rookwood A, Butler Robbins H, De Alba A, Abney M, Hamilton V, Johansson P. Understanding American Indian/Alaska Native Students' barriers and facilitators in the pursuit of health professions careers in Nebraska. *J Am Ind Ed*

Labisi, TO, Podany, AT, Fadul, NA, Coleman JD, **King KM**. (2021). Factors associated with viral suppression among women living with HIV in the United States: An integrative review. *Women's Health*.

King KM, Raposo-Hadley A, Farrens A, Grimm B, Tibbits M, Shelton D, Labisi T, Evans C. Dusk 2 Dawn: a hospital- based violence intervention program for at-risk youth. *Agg Violent Behav*

Reports

Su, D., Palm, D., Ern, J., Rashoka, FN, Hiebert, R., Alshehri, K. (2021). A Community Assessment to Address Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination in Lincoln, Nebraska. Report submitted to Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln.

Su, D., Ern, J., Quinn, A. Walker, C., and Karsting, K. (2021). “A Statewide Assessment of Mental Health Needs and Services Among Children in Nebraska”. Report submitted to Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Su, D., Ern, J., Quinn, A., Walker, C., Karsting, K. (2021) “Provider Perspectives of Mental Health Needs and Services Among Children in Nebraska”. Report submitted to Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Quinn, A., Ern, J., Silva, F., Toure, D., **Su, D.** (2021). “Urban and Rural Differences in Community Health Worker Workforce in Nebraska”. Report submitted to Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

King KM, Idoate R, Allick C, Leon MA, Rookwood A, Butler Robbins H, De Alba A, Abney M, Hamilton V, Johansson P. Understanding American Indian/Alaska Native Students’ barriers and facilitators in the pursuit of health professions careers in Nebraska. *J Am Ind Ed*

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King KM, Raposo-Hadley A, Farrens A, Grimm B, Tibbits M, Shelton D, Labisi T, Evans C. Dusk 2 Dawn: A hospital-based violence intervention program for at-risk youth. *Agg Violent Behav*

Dejun Su, **Khalid Alshehri,** Jose Pagan. (2021). “Income Inequality and the Disease Burden of COVID-19: Evidence from 78 Countries.” [Under Review].

Dejun Su, Aiden Quinn, Khalid Alshehri, Gaurav Kumar, Cady Walker, Jessica Ern. (2021). “Developing the Community Health Worker Workforce to Promote Maternal and Child Health in Nebraska.” Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health [Submitted July 2021].

Dejun Su, Ming Qu, David Palm, Jessica Ern, Falah Rashoka, Rebecca Hiebert, Athena Ramos, Jeff Armitage, Khalid Alshehri. (2021). Community Assessment to Recommend an Optimal COVID-19 Vaccination Plan In Nebraska: A State-Wide Assessment of Needs and Barriers. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health [Submitted Aug 2021].

Research Presentations

Carvajal-Suarez, M. & Ramos, A.K. An intersectional description of Latina immigrants working on cattle feedyards in the United States. Poster presentation at the Women and Gender in Development Virtual Conference hosted by Virginia Tech's Women and Gender in International Development program, February 23-26, 2021.

Molina, D. & Ramos, A.K. *Exploring the need for an intergenerational physical activity program in South Omaha: A mixed methods approach.* Presentation for UNMC COPH Student Research Conference, April 9, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Immigrant farmworker health.* CS-CASH Poultry Grower Roundtable, January 21, 2021.

Ramos, A.K., Carvajal-Suarez, M., Trinidad, N., Quintero, S., Molina, D., & Rowland, S. "*No Somos Maquinas*": *Perspectivas de los trabajadores sobre la cultura de la seguridad en las plantas de procesamiento de carne en el medio oeste.* Presentation to Comunidad Mayan Pixan Ixim & Creighton University's Maya Health Initiative, February 8, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *COVID-19, health disparities, and essential workers: A recurrent reminder of racial inequities in the United States.* Invited presentation for the UNL CEHS Racial Literacy Roundtable, February 17, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Tobacco point-of-sale marketing assessments in Douglas County.* Presentation for the Tobacco Free Nebraska state coalition meeting, February 24, 2021.

Adhikari, S., Yoder, A.M., **Ramos, A.K.,** & Rautiainen, R.H. (2021). *Feedyard – 15: An ongoing project aimed to improve safety and health in the cattle feeding industry.* Poster presentation at ASCHA Safety Summit, March 22-24, 2021.

Ramos, A.K., Adhikari, S., Yoder, A.M., & Rautiainen, R.H. (2021). Occupational injuries among Latino/a immigrant cattle feedyard workers in the central states region of the United States. Poster presentation at ASCHA Safety Summit, March 22-24, 2021.

Ramos, A.K., Greer, A., Salzwedel, M., Crawford, K., Corwin, C., & Grzywacz, J.G. (2021). *Recommendations for efficient rollout of COVID-19 vaccine in the agricultural sector.* Poster presentation at the ASHCA Safety Summit, March 22-24, 2021.

Holmes, C., Gladney, S., Garay, R., & **Ramos, A.K.** *Connecting with farmworkers during the COVID-19 pandemic: Using research to elevate their voices.* Presentation at the 2021 Virtual Forum for Migrant and Community Health, March 26, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *COVID-19 Farmworker Study: Findings from California.* Presentation at the Planting Seeds of Partnership Conference, April 20, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *The ghosts in our fields: Migrant farmworker health in Nebraska.* Presentation at the 2021 Nebraska Conference on Health Equity, April 23, 2021.

McGinley, M., **Ramos, A.K.**, & Carlo, G. (2021). *Workplace predictors of immigrant cattle feedlot workers' social well-being*. Poster presentation at the Midwest Regional American Psychological Association Conference, April 24, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Health, well-being, and protections of essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Presentation for Community conversations at Institute for Healing Justice and Equity at St. Louis University, April 27, 2021.

Ramos, A.K., Trinidad, N., & Carvajal-Suarez, M. (2021). *Assessment of indoor and outdoor tobacco and e-cigarette retail advertising in Douglas County, Nebraska*. Poster presentation at the Cambio de Colores annual conference, June 16, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. & Carvajal-Suarez, M. *Occupational and discrimination-related stressors among immigrant cattle feedyard workers in the Central States region*. Presentation at the Cambio de Colores annual conference, June 18, 2021.

Ramos, A.K., Quintero, S., Carvajal-Suarez, M., & Trinidad, N. *Community integration in rural South Dakota*. Presentation at the Cambio de Colores annual conference, June 18, 2021.

Girdžiūtė, L. & **Ramos, A.K.** *International perspectives: Immigrant safety*. Invited keynote presentation at the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH) annual conference, June 23, 2021.

Galindo, S., **Ramos, A.K.**, Sampson, S., & Simon, R. *COVID-19 vaccine perceptions among agricultural, fishing, and forestry (AgFF) audiences*. Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Safety and Health webinar, August 25, 2021.

Ramos, A.K., Santarpia, J., Lau, J., Rowland, S., & Lowe, A. *Meatpacking plants & COVID-19: Research panel*. UNMC Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, September 29, 2021.

Ramos, A.K., Tromanhauser, D., Nuncio, Y., & Klataske, R. *Meatpacking plants & COVID-19: Broader context and workers' perspective panel*. UNMC Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, October 12, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Promoting mental well-being among farmworkers in the North Central region*. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Conference, October 27, 2021.

Hernandez, A., Guillen, B., **Ramos, A.K.**, & Bustos, T. *The intersection between community-based and participatory research (CBPR) and culturally responsive and equitable evaluation (CREE) with Latinx communities*. LaRed pre-conference panel for the American Evaluation Association Annual Conference, November 8, 2021.

Carvajal-Suarez, M. & Ramos, A.K. (2021). *A snapshot of Immigrant Hispanic women working in feedlots in the Midwest of the U.S.* Poster presentation at the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health conference, November 9, 2021.

Sanchez, M.J. & Ramos, A.K. (2021). *Association between pain and mental health conditions among Latino immigrant cattle feedyard workers*. Poster presentation at the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health conference, November 11, 2021.

Brown, D., Rudolphi, J., Cuthbertson, C., Funkenbusch, K., Jacob, T., & **Ramos, A.K.** *Collaborative Extension efforts to deliver farm stress programs in the North Central region*. Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health (MRASH) Conference, November 11, 2021.

Ahmed, R. & Ramos, A.K. (2021). *Injury-related lost productive time and treatment among Latino immigrant cattle feedyard workers in the central states region of the United States*. Poster presentation at the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health conference, November 12, 2021.

Ramos, A.K. *Safety culture*. Presentation at Nebraska Cattlemen College, Kearney, NE, November 30, 2021.

Schmeits, K. & Ramos, A.K. *Public perceptions of indoor and outdoor tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) advertising*. Presentation for UNMC COPH Student Research Conference, April 9, 2021.

Journal & Grant Reviewers

Dr. Keyonna King reviewed the article “Moderate Physical Activity and Healthy Eating Habits Among Older African American Women with Diabetes and Hypertension: A Qualitative Study for Barriers and Facilitators” for *Ethnicity & Health*.

The
Center for Reducing
Health Disparities
Team



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Professional Summary

2012 – Present, Associate Professor, Department of Health Promotion, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2010 – 2012, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Texas Pan-American (UTPA), Edinburg, TX.

2009 – 2012, Director of the CDC-Sponsored South Texas Border Health Disparities Center, UTPA, Edinburg, TX.

2006 – 2010, Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, UTPA, Edinburg, TX.

2007 – 2009, Graduate Advisor in the Sociology Master Program at the Department of Sociology, UTPA, Edinburg, TX.

Education

2006, Ph.D. Sociology, University of Chicago

1999, M.A. Demography Peking University, China 1999

1996, B.A. Sociology Peking University, China 1996

Research Interests

Social Demography

Medical Sociology

Health Research and Policy

Professional Affiliations

American Public Health Association

Keyonna King, DrPH

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Professional Summary

2017 – Present, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion

2016 – 2017, Program Evaluator, University of Nebraska Omaha, Support and Training for the Evaluation of Programs (STEPs).

2012 – 2015, Senior Research Associate, University of California Los Angeles, Clinical and Translational Science Institute/Community Engagement and Research Program (CERP).

Education

2014, Doctor of Public Health (DrPH), Loma Linda University

2006, Master of Arts in Psychology with clinical emphasis, Pepperdine University

2004, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Creighton University

Research Interests

Dr. King focuses her research efforts on reducing health disparities and improving health Outcomes for African Americans leveraging the community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach and other community engagement principles. She is also interested in Improving holistic health outcomes in African American men with an emphasis on mental health.

Professional Affiliations

American Public Health Association

Public Health Association for Nebraska

National Honor Society for Psychology (Psi Chi)

Athena Ramos, PhD, MBA, MS, CPM

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Professional Summary

2018 – Present, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion/Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2014 – 2018, Community Health Program Manager, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2014 – 2015, Instructor, Department of Health Promotion, Social & Behavioral Health, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2007 – 2014, Program Coordinator, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2005 – 2007, Health Educator, The Cardiac Center of Creighton University, Research Department, Omaha, NE.

2001 – 2005, Tobacco Control Outreach Specialist, Latino Center of the Midlands, Omaha, NE.

2000, Nebraska Coordinator, Latino Vote 2000, United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, Chicago, IL.

Education

2017, PhD, International family and Community Studies, Clemson University

2015, Appreciative Inquiry Certificate in Positive Business and Society Change, Case Western Reserve University

2014, LGBT Health C3 Certificate: Basic & Advanced Skills, University of Nebraska Medical Center

2009, Master's in Business Administration (MBA), University of Nebraska at Omaha

2008, Certified Public Manager (CPM), University of Nebraska at Omaha

2004, Master's in Urban Studies (MS), University of Nebraska at Omaha
2004, Certificate in Working with Youth, University of Nebraska at Omaha
2002, Bachelor's in Public Administration (BS), University of Nebraska at Omaha
1999, Certificate in Fundraising Management, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Research Interests

Occupational safety, health, and well-being among agri-food system workers
Latino health and health disparities
Tobacco control and prevention
Community development
Healthy public spaces, recreation areas, and parks

Professional Affiliations

AgriSafe Network
Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASHCA)
Board Member, Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Board Member, International Society for Agricultural Safety & Health (ISASH)
Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition (MOTAC)
National Alliance for Hispanic Health
Public Health Association of Nebraska

Awards & Honors

Dr. Athena Ramos was recognized as a UNO College of Public Affairs and Community Service, Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service in April 2021, the UNMC College of Public Health, Carruth J. Wagner, M.D., Faculty Prize in Public Health in May 2021, and the MOTAC Changemaker Award in May 2021.



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Professional Summary

July 2018 – present, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion, University Of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2015 – June 2018, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Health Promotion, Social and Behavioral Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2009 – 2015, Graduate Research Assistant, Division of Health Policy and Management, University Of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

2008 – 2009, Research Associate, Chang Gung University, Taiwan

2006 – 2007 & 2009, Research Associate, National Yang-Ming University, Taiwan

Education

2015, Ph.D., Health Services Research, Policy & Administration (with an emphasis on Health Decision Science), University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

2006, MHA, Healthcare Management, Chang Gung University

2004, B.A., Healthcare Management, Taipei Medical University

Research Interests

Health Service Research

Economic Evaluation

Decision Analysis

Cost-effectiveness Analysis

Comparative Effectiveness Research

Implementation Science

Professional Affiliations

Society of Medical Decision Making

Associate Editor for the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease

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Professional Summary

2020 – present, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2018 – 2020, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2016 – 2018, Postdoctoral Research Associate – Transformational Practice and Partnerships, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2016 – 2016, Research Assistant, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2013 – 2015, Graduate Research Assistant – Translational Obesity Program, Virginia Tech

2004 – 2010, Health Policies Senior Advisor – Uberaba Health Department, Brazil

2008 – 2009, Instructor/Student Advisor – Family Health – Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais.

2007 – 2008, Program Coordinator – Community Health Agents Qualification Program – UFTM, Brazil.

2006 – 2007, Internship Supervisor – Primary Care – College of Nursing – Universidade de Uberaba, Brazil.

2004 – 2006, Research Clinical Nurse – Tropical Disease/Family Health – Health Department /UFTM, Brazil.

2002 – 2003, Teaching Assistant, College of Nursing at Universidade Federal do Triângulo Mineiro.

Education

2016 – 2018, Postdoctoral in Research-Practice and Partnerships (2 years), College of Nursing, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2016, Ph.D., Human Nutrition, Food and Exercise – Translational Obesity, Virginia Tech.

2012, Master of Science in Public Health and Health Care, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais.

2011, Certificate in Primary Health Care and Family Health, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais.

2005, Certificate in Public Health and Epidemiology, Faculdade de Ciências Educacionais

2003, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Universidade Federal do Triângulo Mineiro

2000, Pharmacy Technician, Center of Especial Professional Formation in Health

Research Interests

Community Engaged Research

Health Communication

Cultural Adaptations

Rural and Latino Health Initiatives

Dissemination and Implementation Science

Health equity in physical activity, eating, and weight control

Health behavior interventions research

Adult and childhood obesity

Diabetes prevention

GIS in Health

Professional Affiliations

Board Member, Northeast Nebraska Rural Health Network

Public Health Association of Nebraska

Jessica Ern, MPH
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Professional Summary

2021 – Present, Community Research Data Coordinator, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.

2018 – 2021, Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2017 – 2018, HRSA Maternal & Child Health Bureau Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Trainee, Munroe Meyer Institute (MMI), Omaha, NE.

2017, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland Policy and Advocacy Intern, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Lincoln, NE.

Education

2020, MPH in Maternal and Child Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2015, Graduate Certificate in the Foundations of Public Health, University of Michigan, School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, MI.

2011, Bachelor of Science in Biology, Creighton University, Omaha, NE.

Research Interests

Cultural humility and health policy
Healthcare Access
Maternal and reproductive health
Racial and ethnic health disparities
Refugee health

Professional Affiliations

Global Health Council
American Public Health Association
Student Alliance for Global Health

Michael Griffin, MPH, BS
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Professional Summary

2017 – 2019, Youth Engagement Coordinator, Nebraska AIDS Project

Education

2021, MPH in Health Policy and Management, Emory University

2019, B.S. in Sociology, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Research Interests

I am passionate about emphasizing culture’s role in improving health outcomes through intentional programming with communities to reduce health disparities. With community participation as a priority, I aspire to establish a systems-level behavioral change and build trust between communities and health systems.

La'Trese Rideout, MA, BS
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Professional Summary

2022 – Present, UNMC COPH Community Outreach Specialist

2017 – 2022, Charles Drew Health Center-Omaha Healthy Start Intake Coordinator/Lead Social Work Case Manager

2015 – 2017, Community Alliance – ACT Rehabilitation Specialist

2010 – 2015, NOVA Residential Treatment Facility-Adult Recovery Specialist

Education

2019, Master of Administration in Human Services, Bellevue University

2013, Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Sciences

Research Interests

Increasing mental health awareness among African American communities; particularly in North Omaha.
Improving the educational literacy involving the importance of healthcare in the African American Community.

Reducing the recidivism rate amongst African Americans.

Re-entry of ex-felons back into the community.

Intimate Partner Abuse Advocacy

Reducing infant mortality and low birth outcome rates in Douglas County.

Youth mentorship

Professional Affiliations

National Healthy Start Coalition (member)

Empowerment Network (member)

Natalia Trinidad, MPH, BS

Outreach Project Specialist

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Professional Summary

2021 – Present, Outreach Project Specialist, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, Omaha, NE

2014- 2021, Outreach Project Associate, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, Omaha, NE

2013 -2015, Manufacturing Technologist I, American Red Cross, Omaha, NE

2012- 2013, QC Analyst I, Novartis Consumer Health, Inc., Lincoln, NE

2011-2012, Chemistry Technician, Novartis Consumer Health, Inc., Lincoln, NE

Education

2021 – Present, Doctor of Philosophy in Epidemiology (PhD) Student, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2019, Master of Public Health (MPH), Epidemiology concentration, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2011, Bachelor's in Biology (BS), Minor in Business Administration, Creighton University, Omaha, NE

Research Interests

Prevention of underage drinking

Tobacco control and prevention

Community engagement and outreach

Racial and ethnic health disparities

Healthy public spaces, recreations areas, and parks

Cancer epidemiology

Professional Affiliations

Board member, Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition

Public Health Association of Nebraska

Marcela Carvajal- Suárez, MPH, BS

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Professional Summary

2018 – Present, Community Outreach Specialist, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2016-2018, Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2011 – 2014, Information System Coordinator for the Surveillance and Control of the Environmental Risk Factors Project of the City of Medellin, College of Public Health, University of Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia

Education

2017, MPH in Epidemiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2006, Bachelor's in Health and Environmental Resource Management (BS), University of Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia

Research Interests

Epidemiology of cancer in disparate populations

Occupational health and safety among immigrant agricultural workers

Public health among Hispanic/Latino immigrants

Racial and ethnic health disparities

Tobacco control and prevention

Professional Affiliations

American Public Health Association

Metro Omaha Tobacco Action Coalition (MOTAC)

Titilola Labisi, MHA, MPH, BS

Graduate Research Assistant

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Professional Summary

2022 – Present, Predoctoral Research Fellow, UNMC Specialty Care Clinic

2019 – Present, Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2019, HIV Surveillance Coordinator, Missouri State Department of Health and Senior Services

2018 – 2019, HIV Linkage to Care Coordinator, New Mexico Department of Health

Education

2018, Master of Health Administration, Missouri State University

2017, Master of Public Health, Missouri State University

2012, Bachelor's, Microbiology

Professional Interests

Committed to closing the health disparity gap in the burden of diseases and overall well-being racial and gender minority groups. My research primarily focuses on HIV prevention, management, and other conditions (such as substance use, mental health, and heart-related issues) among these groups. I am particularly interested in leveraging community resources and collaborating with community organizations to develop effective programs and interventions that reach targeted populations and are sustainable in the community.

Professional Affiliations

American Public Health Association

Infectious Disease Society of America

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Professional Summary

2020- Present, Graduate Assistant; Center for Reducing Health Disparities, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2019-2020, Research Assistant; Department of Health Services Research & Administration, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2018-2019, Insurance Review; Avera Health, Sioux Falls, SD

Education

2019- Present, PhD, Health Service Research Administration and Policy, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
2016 – 2018, MHA, Health Administration; Missouri State University, Springfield, MO
2005-2010, Bachelor of Radiological Sciences, King Saud University; Riyadh, KSA

Research Interests

Telemedicine
Health systems and economics
Health care and public health leadership/workforce
Health outcomes and quality control

Rishad Ahmed, MBA
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Professional Summary

2021 – Present, Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2017 – 2019, Assistant Director (Awareness), e-Governance, Refugee Health, Government of Bangladesh

2016 – 2017, Research Assistant, Project TIPs for Complementary Feeding and Handwashing Program, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Education

Present, PhD Student, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research

2015, MBA in Marketing, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

2013, Bachelor's in Marketing, University of Dhaka Bangladesh

Research Interests

Occupational health and safety among immigrant agri-food system workers

Health Literacy among Hispanic/Latino immigrants

Occupational injuries

Big data in health

Karen Schmeits, BS
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Professional Summary

August 2020 – Present, Community Research Assistant, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
May – August 2020, APEx Intern, The WellBeing Partners, Omaha, NE
January – July 2020, Prevention Intern at Region 3 Behavioral Health Services, Kearney, NE
Spring 2018, Health Education Project volunteer in Bali, Indonesia (6-week program with IVHQ)

Education

August 2020 – Present, Master of Public Health, Department of Health Promotion, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
August 2016 – July 2020, Bachelor of Arts and Sciences, Major in Health Science & Minor in Public Health at University of Nebraska – Kearney, NE.

Research Interests

Racial and ethnic health disparities
Occupational health and safety of agricultural workers
Chronic disease and injury prevention
Substance abuse and tobacco use prevention
Promotion of physical and mental well-being

Professional Affiliations

Metro Omaha Tobacco Coalition (MOTAC)

Gaurav Kumar, MBBS, MPH

Graduate Research Assistant

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Professional Summary

2019-Present, Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2018– 2019, Other Hourly Worker, Department of Health Promotion, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2018, Teaching Assistant, Department of Health Promotion, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2014-2015, General Physician, The Center for Health Research and Development, New Delhi, India

Education

2019- Present, PhD student in Department of Health Promotion, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2018, MPH (Epidemiology), College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

2013, Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), National Medical College and Teaching Hospital, Nepal

Research Interests

Racial and ethnic health disparities

Health Promotion

Chronic Disease Prevention

Professional Affiliations

American Public Health Association

Medical Council of India

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Professional Summary

April 2020 – Present, Office Associate II, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

January 2016 – March 2020, Office Associate I, Dean’s Office, College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

November 2014 – December 2015, Office Associate I, Truhlsen Eye Institute, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

May 2013 – November 2014, Office Associate I, Diabetes, Endocrinology & Metabolism, Internal Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE

December 2009 – April 2013, Administrative Assistant II, Bellevue University, Bellevue, NE

November 2007 – November 2009, Patient Financial Services Billing Clerk, Boystown National Research Hospital, Omaha, NE

December 2004 – October 2007, Sr. Administrative Assistant/Institutional Biosafety Committee, (IBC), Creighton University, Omaha, NE

Honors and Awards

2017 College of Public Health Silver U

Contact Us

The Center is always happy to discuss the efforts that we are making in the community and how to develop and create effective partnerships, programs, and initiatives to meet community needs. We would love to work with you and/or answer any questions that you may have.

Please feel free to contact us.

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