Welcome to the fall issue of the Research Digest, our e-newsletter designed to bring you exciting research-related news in the School of Human Services. This issue features the research activities and events of the Health Promotion and Education Program.

The purpose of this publication is to share recent research and achievements among research faculty in each program in the School of Human Services. Each issue will feature one of our programs to inform you of the latest research, grants, community partnerships, publications, and program and faculty awards. We have a lot of exciting work happening in our school, and we want to get the word out, so please share the Research Digest with our faculty, students, alumni, and community partners!

Additionally, we want to hear from you! Tell us what you enjoy about the Research Digest and share with us ideas for informing and inspiring you in future issues.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Research Digest!
**Awards and Grants**

**Dr. Ashley L. Merianos**, Assistant Professor in the Health Promotion and Education Program, is the proud recipient of a National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01). The research aims are to identify the health and economic burden of child secondhand smoke exposure on the Pediatric Emergency Department and create an implementation plan to reduce exposure. The K01 Award will provide her with fundamental research and career training in mixed-methods methodology and implementation of prevention interventions to meet her long-term career goal of being a health services researcher with expertise in developing, adapting, and implementing evidence-based prevention interventions for substance use disorders affecting children in the acute healthcare setting.

**Dr. Keith A. King**, Professor in the Health Promotion and Education Program, is the proud recipient of the University of Cincinnati Mid-Career Research Scientist Award. This award is given to faculty in recognition for their health-related research accomplishments to this point in their careers. Dr. King’s research emphases include child and adolescent health promotion, suicide, violence and substance abuse prevention, mental health promotion, sexual health, survey development, and program evaluation. His research studies have been cited in various websites and popular press publications, including *Newsweek*, WebMD, CBS Medscape and *Counseling Today*. Dr. King was presented with the Mid-Career Research Scientist Award during the opening ceremony of UC’s Research Week on April 17, 2017. For the full story video, visit: [http://healthnews.uc.edu/news/?/28846/](http://healthnews.uc.edu/news/?/28846/)
Awards and Grants (continued)

Keith A. King, PhD, MCHES (Principal Investigator), Rebecca A. Vidourek, and Laura A. Nabors (Co-Investigators)

The MOMS project evaluation has been funded for two years and has focused on assessing the overall efficacy of improving maternal and fetal outcomes, improving family stability, and reducing the cost of neonatal abstinence syndrome to Ohio’s Medicaid program. The MOMS program aims to achieve such goals by providing treatment, including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), to opiate-addicted pregnant mothers during and after pregnancy. The quality improvement initiative aimed to 1) target women and test a best practice maternal care home model that improves practice care collaborations that serve pregnant women, 2) provide effective identification of and outreach to pregnant women eligible or enrolled in Medicaid who are dependent or addicted to opioids, and 3) increase timely referral and access to effective treatment using standardized treatment practices. Four pilot sites were selected by OhioMHAS to participate in this project: 1) Urban, Behavioral Health/Children’s Hospital Partnership, Inc., 2) Urban, Behavioral Health-Driven, Residential Treatment, 3) Rural, Behavioral Health-Driven, and 4) Urban, OB-Driven Medical Center with Behavioral Health, MAT, and housing support.

Keith A. King, PhD, MCHES (Co-Investigator) and Rebecca A. Vidourek, PhD, CHES (Co-Investigator)

The PLLUSS program has been funded for four years and has provided a public health leadership and research program for undergraduate sophomore and junior students minoring or majoring in public health. The PLLUSS program is conducted at three collaborative research sites: 1) Kennedy Krieger Institute (KKI) and Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, 2) University of Cincinnati and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and 3) California State University-Los Angeles. PLLUSS Program students participated in research, education on health disparities and urban health issues, professional development, and community health promotion activities. Students are mentored to produce peer-reviewed publications and attend a national public health conference. Students receive mentorship with the goal of successful acceptance and completion of graduate or professional school in public health.
Kristen Welker, MS, a doctoral candidate in the Health Promotion and Education Program, received a CECH Graduate Student and Faculty Mentoring Grant for her research on technology to assess young children’s perceptions of an obesity prevention program. Kristen used commercials, recorded on cellular telephones, to assess young children’s knowledge after program participation. She also evaluated the impact of a motivational interviewing technique on improving children’s involvement in establishing healthy eating and exercise goals and using these goals to make successful changes in their behavior at home. Kristen recently presented her findings with co-authors Dr. Laura Nabors (mentor) and undergraduate student Faizan Qureshi during their presentation, “A Mixed-Methods Evaluation of an After-School Obesity Prevention Intervention Using Student-Generated Commercials and Goal Sheets,” on April 1, 2017 at the Spring Research Conference, a regional event jointly sponsored by the University of Cincinnati, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Louisville for graduate students in the Greater Cincinnati Area.

Andrew Yockey, a first-year master’s student and graduate assistant in the Health Promotion and Education Program, presented his research project, “The Role of the Media in Shaping Electronic-Cigarette Behaviors Among Hispanic Adolescents.” This study examined different sources of media and their particular influence in shaping electronic cigarette behaviors among Hispanic adolescents from the 2014 National Youth and Tobacco Survey. Results are promising in identifying certain sources of media, their influence on deleterious health behaviors, and potential avenues for future health interventions. Andrew and the research team presented these findings on August 5th, 2017 at the American Psychological Association Conference in Washington, D.C.
Meet the Research Faculty

Liliana Rojas-Guyler, PhD, MHSE, CHES is an Associate Professor in the Health Promotion and Education Program. Dr. Rojas-Guyler earned her PhD from Indiana University in Bloomington where she majored in Health Behavior and minored in Human Sexuality Education and Instructional Systems Technology (2002). She earned both a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in health education from the University of Florida in Gainesville. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist and an Eta Sigma Gamma National Fellow.

Dr. Rojas-Guyler has published and presented widely on minority health issues, particularly those relating to Latina health. Her research agenda includes determinants of health among vulnerable populations (e.g., people with disabilities and immigrants), health behaviors, the influence of culture, and professional preparation needs of future health educators to address cultural appropriateness in health program planning. Her most recent research includes: a) assessing the health status changes over the last decade of Latinos in the Greater Cincinnati Area; b) assessing disability awareness and self-efficacy of health education students; and c) assessing the connection of social media use, body image, cultural identity, and exercise patterns among African American and Latinos. Dr. Rojas-Guyler has published in Health Behavior, Health Promotion Practice, The Health Educator, the American Journal of Health Education, the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, Family and Community Health, and the Journal of Religion and Health, among others. Dr. Rojas-Guyler is dedicated to inclusion of students in collaborative research teams. She is experienced in qualitative and quantitative evaluation and research and is knowledgeable and proficient conducting program evaluation and continuous improvement.

Dr. Rojas-Guyler serves as a reviewer for several professional journals and is a member of the editorial board for The Health Educator. She has worked at the national level with Eta Sigma Gamma, the national honorary for her profession, the Society for Public Health Education, and has held membership with several other organizations including the American Association for Health Education and the National Latina Health Network. Her involvement also includes several contributions to local community organizations over the years such as the Bienestar program of Santa Maria Community Services and the Abriendo Puertas program of the Interact for Health ASAP Center. Dr. Rojas-Guyler has been a member of the Greater Cincinnati Hispanic Coalition and was an active founding member of the Latino Health Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati. Dr. Rojas-Guyler has served as a member of the Cincinnati Metro YMCA Board of Directors and Northern Kentucky University’s Latino and Multicultural Center for Regional Development Board of Governors. She is currently a member of Interact for Health’s Community Involvement Committee and a research consultant for the Latino Community Health Status Survey (IH).

Selected Publications:


Keith A. King, PhD, MCHES, is a Professor in the Health Promotion and Education Program. He also serves as the Director of the Center for Prevention Science. His research emphases include child/adolescent health promotion, suicide, violence and substance abuse prevention, mental health promotion, school health education, sexual health, survey development, and program evaluation. He has published over 160 professional articles in peer-reviewed journals and has delivered more than 300 professional presentations at international, national, and regional conferences. His research studies have been cited in various websites and popular press publications, including Newsweek, WebMD, CBS Medscape, and Counseling Today.

In 2001, he received the American Association for Health Education Horizon Award as the nation’s health educator demonstrating prominence in the profession. In 2004, he received the Simon Anderson Faculty Award for his dedication toward the educational advancement of student-athletes. In 2008, he received the UC teaching professor of the year award (UC Dolly Cohen Award), the most prestigious teaching award distributed at the University of Cincinnati, for his excellence in teaching. In 2009, he was inducted into the UC Academy of Fellows in Teaching and Learning and received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Toledo College of Health Science and Human Service. In 2017, he received the Mid-Career Research Scientist Award from UC for his sustained productivity in research.

Dr. King is an active member of the American School Health Association, American Academy of Health Behavior, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and the Society for Public Health Education. He is the former Chair of the Research Council for the American School Health Association and has consulted for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Registry of Effective Programs, and the National Institute for Occupational Health. He also serves as the Cincinnati Regional Epidemiologist for the Ohio Substance Abuse Network of the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services. He has developed various statewide projects for the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Department of Medicaid, and various other agencies. He is currently the primary investigator evaluating the efficacy of a statewide project assisting mothers who are addicted to opiates.

Dr. King worked for several years in an inpatient psychiatric facility for adolescents, assisted the Southern Health Board of County Cork, Ireland in developing teen suicide and drug prevention efforts, and has assisted numerous schools, communities, coalitions, health departments, and state agencies in establishing adolescent substance abuse, violence, and suicide prevention initiatives. He believes that helping children and adolescents to become positively connected to positive people and positive situations, especially their family, school, and community, is critical to their overall engagement in healthy behaviors.

**Selected Publications:**


Ashley L. Merianos, PhD, CHES, is an Assistant Professor in the Health Promotion and Education Program. She received her BA in Communication and MS and PhD in Health Education from the University of Cincinnati. Her research expertise and interest areas include substance use prevention and control, health services research, and social and behavioral epidemiology. Dr. Merianos has published over 70 peer-reviewed scientific articles and has disseminated her research findings in over 50 national presentations. She currently serves as a member for UC research initiatives at the school, college, and university levels. Dr. Merianos is a member of the following professional organizations: American Journal of Health Behavior review board; American Academy of Pediatrics Tobacco Consortium; and National Institutes of Health Early Career Reviewer Program. She received the UC Health Research Rising Star Award in 2016, which is given to a faculty member who is active in health-related research and who will be the future of UC’s research prowess. Dr. Merianos is also the proud recipient of a National Institute on Drug Abuse Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01). She was awarded this 5-year grant in 2017.

Selected Publications:

http://journals.sagepub.com/cgi/full/10.1177/089017116686885

Laura Nabors, PhD, ABPP is a Professor in an interdisciplinary position in Human Services, with a primary placement in the Health Promotion and Education Program. She received her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Memphis. Her internship training occurred at the TEACHH Program and the University of North Carolina, and her postdoctoral training was at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center at the University of North Carolina. She obtained her masters in clinical psychology, as well as her BA in International Affairs from Xavier University.

Broadly speaking, Dr. Nabors’ research focus is child health and mental health issues. Dr. Nabors’ research interests have focused on better explaining children’s attitudes and representing their opinions and voices in research. She also enjoys work centered on evaluating children’s community programs. Recently, she has broadened her work to include a resilience framework, in order to present a strengths-based approach to improving children’s lives.

Dr. Nabors is an Associate Editor for the Journal of Child and Family Studies and serves on the editorial boards for the Journal of Family Violence, Behavior Modification, and the Journal of Asthma. Dr. Nabors is a fellow of the American Psychological Association for Division 54, the Society of Pediatric Psychology. Dr. Nabors is a member of the Interdivisional Task Force on Children’s Mental Health for the American Psychological Association. She has a specialty in Child and Adolescent Psychology, conferred by the American Board of Professional Psychology. She has
Recently written a book, *Medical and mental health during childhood: Psychosocial perspectives and positive outcomes*, in collaboration with Dr. Ashley Merianos, also in the Health Promotion and Education Program. Dr. Nabors has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications and has done over 100 presentations at national conferences. Recently, she was a co-investigator on a grant with Dr. Keith King (principal investigator) and Dr. Rebecca Vidourek to examine support for mothers with opioid addiction.

**Selected Publications:**


**Brittany L. Rosen, PhD, CHES**, is an Assistant Professor in the Health Education and Promotion Program. She received her PhD from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas with an advanced research methods certificate. She received her Master's of Education in Health Education along with her bachelor's degree in health and wellness promotion with a minor in mathematics from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, in addition to completing a Texas Teachers Certificate in Health Education in the K-12 setting.

Her research agenda focuses on sexually transmitted infection prevention in adolescents and young adults, with a specific focus on HPV vaccination uptake by developing and conducting innovative, interdisciplinary strategies to deliver HPV vaccine interventions in clinical, school, and alternative settings. Dr. Rosen published four peer-reviewed journal articles in 2016, and has published three articles in 2017. Overall, Dr. Rosen has 24 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Rosen is an active member of the American School Health Association (ASHA), American Academy of Health and Behavior (AAHB), and Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM). She currently serves on ASHA's Leadership and Recognition committee and SAHM's Vaccination Committee, and is a Review Board Member for the *American Journal of Health Behavior*. In the fall of 2017, Dr. Rosen will become the new facilitator for ASHA's Future Leaders Academy. In 2014, she was accepted into the NIH Center for Scientific Review Early Career Reviewer Program and was awarded the Emerging Professional Award by the American School Health Association (ASHA) in 2016.

**Selected Publications:**


Rebecca Vidourek, PhD, CHES is an Associate Professor and graduate program coordinator of the Health Promotion and Education Program. She received her PhD in health education, her MEd in community health education, and her BS in health promotion and education from the University of Cincinnati. Her research emphases include child/adolescent health risk behavior, substance abuse prevention, mental health promotion, violence prevention, and positive youth development.

Dr. Vidourek has more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and over 125 international, national, and regional presentations. In addition to reviewing for multiple health education and substance abuse journals, she also serves as an editorial associate for the *American Journal of Health Behavior* and *The Health Educator*. Dr. Vidourek served as a co-investigator on the Public Health Leadership and Learning Undergraduate Student Success (PLLUSS) program for the past four years. In conjunction with Johns Hopkins University and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this program sought to build leadership and research skills among under-represented undergraduate students. Dr. Vidourek also served as a co-investigator on the Maternal Opiate Medical Supports Grant, which sought to improve health and social outcomes for drug-addicted mothers and their children.

**Selected publications:**

