

**Title:** DETERMING PREVALENCE, BEHAVIORAL INTENT, AND PERCEIVED HEALTH RISK OF ALTERNATIVE SMOKING DEVICE USE AMONG ARKANSAS MINORITY YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS.

**Principal Investigator Name:**  
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### **Abstract**

**Rationale:** Known health risks have decreased smoking among youth and young adults, while use of alternative smoking devices among this population is on the rise. According to the CDC, the use of alternative smoking devices by middle and high schools students nearly tripled from 2013-2014. Alternative smoking devices combine water vapor, nicotine, flavor, and other chemicals so they can be inhaled and act as an alternative to combustible smoking. Very little is known about the use of alternative smoking devices among Arkansas's minority youth and young adults.

**Objective:** To collect preliminary data on prevalence rates, behavioral intention, and perception of health risk related to alternative smoking devices among minority youth and young adults.

**Design:** The design will utilize secondary data to determine prevalence rates, behavioral intention, and perception of health risk related to alternative smoking devices among minority youth and young adults in Arkansas. **Setting:** Data will be collected from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), Arkansas Prevention Needs Assessment (APNA), and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). **Participants:** Arkansas youth and young adults that completed the 2013-2015 YRBS, APNA, and NHANES. **Intervention:** This study will only assess secondary data. **Measurements:** Frequency counts, chi-square, correlations, and logistic regression models will be utilized to analyze the data. The data will be used to determine if a specific set of variables predicts prevalence rates, behavioral intention, and perception of health risk related to alternative forms of smoking. **Potential Limitations:** This study will be limited by self-reported data.

Title: Automated Disclosure of Smoking Status during Check in at the UAMS Women's Clinic Demonstration Project

**Principal Investigator Name:**

Victor M. Cardenas, PhD

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**Abstract**

**Rationale:** We have found that 30% of pregnant women attending the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Women's Clinic population are current smokers. Asking about smoking and engaging women in cessation is a barrier to the successful implementation of cessation programs. We propose an innovative approach that will circumvent this system/organizational barrier and will facilitate the offer of tobacco cessation counseling to the client of the clinic. **Objective:** To assess the effect of systematically asking pregnant women about their smoking status on the referral to *Arkansas Tobacco Quitline*. **Design:** Before and after comparison. **Setting:** University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Women's Clinic. **Participants:** 1,500 smoking pregnant women, 45% of them African-American. **Intervention:** The front desk staff at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Women's Clinic will be asked to instruct client's presenting for a visit to fill out the questionnaire using a provided tablet, classifying women using the 2' A and R intervention questions. The information from the tablet will populate the EPIC system so clinic staff will be alerted of any patient who is a current smoker, target of cessation counselling. The system will also remind the provider to reinforce behavior of those who have already quit. The system will print out the contract for those clients to agree trying quitting and will be faxed to the Arkansas Department of Health staff. **Measurements:** Referral to the Arkansas Tobacco Quitline before and after the intervention. **Potential Limitations:** Lack of concurrent comparison group.

**Title** Smoking Cessation Through Interactive Education for Minority Women at Risk for Cervical Cancer

**Principal Investigator Name:** Hari Eswaran, PhD

**Institution address:** University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

### **Abstract**

**Rationale:** Women evaluated for an abnormal Pap smear are at high-risk of developing cervical cancer and this risk is even higher for those that also report tobacco use. Therefore, by targeting women in an established telecolposcopy clinic setting, the investigators plan to conduct an assessment of tobacco users and provide training on tobacco cessation behaviors through interactive education. **Objective:** To identify minority women who present for an abnormal Pap result at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Telecolposcopy program who are current tobacco users and evaluate tobacco cessation behaviors using interactive education modules through patientslearn.org. **Design:** Minority women will be screened for tobacco use and users will be randomly assigned to an intervention or control group for a one month duration. **Setting:** Minority women at County Health Units across the state will be recruited during their UAMS telecolposcopy visit. **Participants:** Minority women will be recruited from the UAMS Telecolposcopy program. **Intervention:** Subjects will be randomized to the intervention or control group. The intervention group will complete a tobacco cessation module through interactive education using UAMS patientslearn.org. **Measurements:** A screening tool will be used to identify tobacco users. Once identified and enrolled in the study, these women will complete a pre-test and post-test measure assessing their knowledge of tobacco cessation risk factors and cessation practices. **Potential Limitations:** While some subjects may not have access to the internet during the course of this project a tablet or desktop computer will be made available in the clinics.

Title: The interplay between severe and acute stress exposure among minorities and susceptibility to psychopathology and smoking behavior.

Principal Investigator Name: Emilie Kay Beltzer, PhD

Institution address: Henderson State University

### Abstract

**Rationale:** The current state of research demands basic findings to better elucidate the interplay between chronic stress effects among disadvantaged minority groups and susceptibility to psychopathology and smoking behavior. Advancements in bioscience technology are allowing researchers to incorporate epigenetic indicators of chronic stress and smoking into ethnic-driven studies of stress and health, while the complexity underlying the origins of these outcomes requires analysis into a host of other important related processes, namely, physiological responses to situations of acute stress.

**Objective:** This study seeks to expand existing models of stress effects through basic research to elucidate cycles of adversity among Black minorities implicated in psychopathology and smoking outcomes. **Design:** The proposed study will utilize a 2 (ethnic group: Blacks; Whites) x 2 (experimental condition: stressor; control) between-subjects design.

**Setting:** Study procedures and data collection will take place on the campus of Henderson State University in designated classrooms. **Participants:** Data from approximately 174 (24% Blacks) male and female undergraduate college students will be analyzed.

**Intervention:** Participants will be naturally assigned to their respective ethnic group and then randomly assigned to one of the two acute stress manipulation conditions. Saliva will be sampled throughout the session and questionnaires will be completed at the end. **Measurements:**

Physiological responses will be captured by salivary cortisol and alphaamylase measurements. Other measures will include childhood and recent trauma, symptoms of psychopathology, cigarette smoking and substance abuse behavior, methylated DNA levels, and trait-based coping and resiliency. **Potential Limitations:** Limitations of the study include possible data attrition and procedural inconsistencies.

Title: Social Work Intervention in Tobacco Cessation for Pregnant Minority Women.

Principal Investigator Name: Rejoice A. Addae, PhD, LMSW

Institution address: Arkansas State University-Jonesboro

### Abstract

**Rationale:** There is limited research on the impact of cigarette use on female racial/ethnic minority groups, especially those residing in rural areas. Furthermore, the impact of cigarette use among pregnant minority women is even more limited. Women have been historically overlooked in regard to treatment and interventions and women of color have rarely been recognized at all. More research is needed in this area to better serve the specific needs of this group. **Objective:** The objective of this research is twofold: to add to the current body of research on the social implications of cigarette use among pregnant minority women; and, to examine the effectiveness of peer led smoking cessation groups among this vulnerable population. **Design:** Mixed methods study – survey tool and in-depth interviews **Setting:** A meeting room large enough to accommodate 12 group members and three group facilitators – setting will be chosen with special needs of pregnant women in mind **Participants:** Voluntary pregnant minority women, recruited through area OBGYN offices. **Intervention:** Intervention is based on a psychoeducational smoking cessation model with an emphasis on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy adapted to the specific needs of this population. Group meets once a week for six consecutive weeks. **Measurements:** The main measurement is effectiveness of Psychoeducation and CBT in tobacco cessation among group participants. However, through surveys and in-depth interviewing, attitudes and social push/pull factors toward tobacco cigarette use will also be measured. **Potential Limitations:** Due to social bias, persons who meet criteria for inclusion in the study may be reluctant to join.

**Title:** Assessing Awareness of Risks Associated with Alternative Smoking Devices among Arkansas' Minority Youth, Parents and School Officials

**Principal Investigator Name:** Lillie M. Fears, PhD

**Institution address:** Arkansas State University-Jonesboro,

### **Abstract**

**Rationale:** It appears no research has been conducted with school officials and parents in Arkansas to assess their knowledge of risks associated with alternative smoking device (ASD) use. This study addresses this research void. **Objective:** At the conclusion of this study, researchers will be able to explain gaps existing in participants' knowledge of risks associated with e-cigarette use. **Design:** This study will include a survey of school officials and focus groups with parents and/or caretakers of minority youth. **Setting:** Surveys will be conducted online and focus groups will be conducted in public spaces located in school districts with majority (51% or more) minority student populations. **Participants:** School officials and parents/caretakers of minority youth enrolled in public schools. **Intervention:** After results are compiled, a multimedia project (e.g., slideshow, short film, etc.) and printed literature explaining the risks associated with ASD use will be created and made available to organizations to which school officials belong. Information in similar formats will be made available to parent organizations. All productions will be posted on popular social media platforms. **Measurements:** Survey and focus group transcripts will be analyzed to determine to what extent participants are aware of the risks associated with ASD use. **Potential Limitations:** Focus group results cannot be generalized to represent more than the personal opinions of the individual participants. As such, the results must be reviewed from a qualitative frame of reference only.

**Title: CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF E-CIG USE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS USING SOCIAL MARKETING AND THE HEALTH BELIEF MODEL**

**Principal Investigator Name:** Duston Drew Morris, PhD

**Institution address:** University of Central Arkansas, Department of Health Sciences, 201 Donaghey Ave., Conway, AR. 72035

**Abstract**

**Rationale:** The increase trend of e-cig use may be related to marketing strategies and advertising (Trumbo & Se-Jin, 2015). Unregulated advertising may be contributing to college students' positive perceptions and increased e-cig use (Trumbo & Se-Jin, 2015). **Objective:** To determine if a college campus ad/media campaign, targeting minority students, that utilizes Social Marketing strategies and the Health Belief Model (HBM) can positively influence health perception and behavioral intention related to e-cig use. **Design:** College students will be exposed to a campus wide ad campaign using social marketing strategies and constructs of the HBM in order to educate and increase college students' awareness related to the negative health implications of e-cig use. Some ads placed across campus will be general, while others will target minority students, addressing specific cultural values or behavioral cues. **Setting:** A South Central University in Arkansas. **Participants:** College students enrolled at the South Central University in Arkansas during the 2018-2019 academic year. **Intervention:** This study will use a social marketing/HBM ad campaign where students will be exposed to general ads and culturally specific ads that educate and increase awareness related to the negative health implications of e-cig use. **Measurements:** Online pre/post surveys will be used to collect data on college students' health perceptions and behavioral intention related to e-cig use. Data will be used to determine if specific ad strategies have a greater impact on minority students' health perceptions and behavioral intention related to e-cig use. **Potential Limitations:** This study will be limited by self-reported data.

Title: DEVELOPMENT OF E-CIGARETTES/VAPING, TOBACCO AND OPIOID PREVENTION EDUCATION MATERIALS FOR MINORITY YOUTH

Principal Investigator Name: Stephanie Frances Rose

Institution address: University of Central Arkansas, Department of Health Sciences,

Abstract

**Rationale:** Minority youth struggle with e-cigarettes/vaping and tobacco products. Opioid use and addiction are major concerns, with inherent health risks related to the use of all of these substances. There is a dearth of prevention education materials that exist which address the combined health risks of these substances. African-American and Hispanic-American male youth perceive e-cigarettes/vaping use to be safer than other tobacco products, and in many circumstances, they are using e-cigarettes/vaping to conceal tobacco use from authority figures. **Objective:** To begin initial development of prevention education materials that target minority youth and focus on dangers and risk factors related to tobacco and opioid use. **Design:** A multiple-method design will be employed in a qualitative study in order to collect data from middle school and high school students to ensure a robust data collection process. **Setting:** Conway and Little Rock School Districts. **Participants:** Middle school and high school students enrolled in Conway and Little Rock School Districts during the 2020-2021 academic year. **Intervention:** Researchers will collect data from Minority middle school and high school students to better understand their knowledge, awareness, and perceptions related to e-cigarettes/vaping, tobacco and opioid use. This data will be used to begin development of prevention education materials related to e-cigarettes/vaping, tobacco and opioid use. **Measurements:** Questionnaires and focus groups will be used to collect data on minority middle and high school students' health perceptions and behavioral intention related to e-cigarettes/vaping, tobacco and opioid use. **Potential Limitations:** This study will be limited by self-reported data.



Title: A Small Feasibility Intervention to Improve Harm Reduction And Cessation Outcomes Among African American Women Young Adults Who Use Combustible Tobacco

Principal Investigator Name: Dina Marie Jones, PhD

Institution address: UAMS, Fay W. Boozman, College of Public Health,

### Abstract

**Rationale:** Smoking rates among African American Arkansan women remains higher than the overall smoking prevalence for African American women in the U.S.. Moreover, African American women suffer disproportionately from tobacco related health burdens. Thus, there is a great need for improved cessation, harm reduction, and interventions for African American women. There is also a dearth of information regarding the role of flavors and novel harm reduction products (i.e. e-cigarettes, IQOS) in encouraging sustained use or cessation among this population. **Objective:** The proposed study aims to identify evaluate the feasibility of an educational video intervention on cessation, harm reduction perceptions, and behaviors among African American women who use combustible tobacco. **Design:** African American Arkansan women smokers will participate in 2-4 focus group interviews (6-8 participants per group, total n= 24-32). Prior to the focus groups, participants will complete a survey, psychophysical (i.e. flavor sensitivity) assessment, and provide biospecimen samples (saliva and carbon monoxide). Data collected will lead to the development of an educational video which will be tested in a small feasibility intervention. **Setting:** The study will be conducted in Arkansas and focus groups/data collection will occur at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). **Participants:** African American women aged 18-35 who currently smoke cigarettes or cigars and reside in Arkansas. **Intervention:** Exposure to educational video **Measurements:** Recruitment feasibility, acceptability of educational video messages, demand for harm reduction, and ability to implement the intervention in African American women. **Potential Limitations:** Small convenience sample leading to limited generalizability, recruitment difficulties

**Title:** ADEVENTURES OF THE HEALTH RAP HEROES – BREAKING DOWN THE DANGERS OF OPIOIDS: PREVENTION EDUCATION MATERIALS FOR MINORITY YOUTH.

**Principal Investigator Name:** Duston Drew Morris, PhD

**Institution:** University of Central Arkansas, Department of Health Sciences,

### Abstract

**Rationale:** Minority youth struggle receive little to no real prevention education related to e-cigarettes/vaping, tobacco products, and opioids. Opioid use and addiction are major concerns, with inherent health risks related to the use of all of these substances. There continues to be a dearth of attractive and informative prevention education materials that address the combined health risks of these substances. **Objective:** To continue the development of *The Adventures of the Health Rap Heroes* – a series of prevention education materials (i.e., story books) that target minority youth and address the dangers and health risks related to substance use, more specifically opioid use. **Design:** A group of prevention education faculty and students will collaborate on the development and implementation of the second prevention book in the series which will address the dangers and health risks related to opioid use. A multiple-method design will be used collect data from middle school students to ensure a robust data collection process. **Setting:** Various counties throughout Arkansas. **Participants:** Minority middle school age youth who reads and voluntarily participates in the prevention education survey/s related to *The Adventure of the Health Rap Heroes* prevention education story books. **Intervention:** Researchers will collect data from minority middle school age youth to better understand their knowledge, awareness, and perceptions related to opioid use. **Measurements:** *The Health Rap Hero Survey* will be used to collect data on minority middle school youths' health perceptions and behavioral intention related to opioid use. **Potential Limitations:** This study will be limited by self-reported data.