



Reducing Health Disparities for Hispanics On the US Mexico Border

LATINO ALCOHOL & HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH
CENTER ORGANIZATIONAL SUMMARY

“Helping Others Move Forward”

500 West University
Avenue El Paso, TX 79968

915-747-7371
LAHDR@utep.edu
lahdr.utep.edu

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Message from the Director



Craig Field, Director

Thank you for your interest in our training and research at the Latino Alcohol and Health Disparities Research (LAHDR) Center. At LAHDR, we are particularly invested in reducing health inequities by increasing the availability of culturally responsive, evidence based

interventions based on motivational interviewing. From a broad perspective, research at the Center focuses on developing culturally responsive interventions based on existing evidence based interventions by accounting for culturally related risk and protective factors. While we have conducted extensive research for more than a decade, we are also focused on ensuring the implementation and dissemination of evidence based strategies to reduce the public health burden of binge drinking in our community.

- Craig Field

Overview

Under Dr. Craig Field's leadership, LAHDR has previously received a 2-year implementation grant from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation (PDNF) as a part of the Shift+ initiative. LAHDR has increased the expertise of regional counselors by providing local trainings by nationally recognized experts in Motivational Interviewing (MI) and MI fidelity tools to enhance the training. With the assistance of community members, LAHDR has developed tailored Brief Motivational Interventions (BMIs), customized trainings, and developed a group of individuals proficient in providing MI and coding MI using systems like the Motivational Interviewing Treatment Integrity (MITI 4.2.1) and the Motivational Interviewing Skill Code (MISC 2.5), used for supervision and research purposes. LAHDR research projects include analyses on focus groups and one-on-one interviews, poster presentations at national conferences (e.g., Research Society on Alcoholism Scientific Meeting), presentations on prominent stages in the field of health disparities (e.g., National Hispanic Science Network 16th International Conference), and representation and participation at the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT) annual forums. LAHDR has also established National Alcohol Screening Day (NASD) in El Paso for two years running. To stay connected with the broader community, we have developed a strong presence online via our website and social media outlets.

Highlights

- **Our Training Director [Patricia Juarez](#) has been an active member of the Motivational Interviewing Network Trainers (MINT) since 2001**
- **Our Training Coordinator has been accepted to participate in the Training for New Trainers (TNT), to also become a member of the MINT**
- **Our trainers and interventionists provide bilingual Motivational Interviewing and Brief Motivational Intervention training for serving adolescents and adults**

BELOW: The psychology building on the University of Texas at El Paso campus, which houses the Latino Alcohol & Health Disparities Research Center.



- Our trainers are competent in the use of the Motivational Interviewing Treatment Integrity (MITI 4.2.1) and Motivational Interviewing Skill Code (MISC 2.5) coding systems for supervision and research purposes
- Our trainers and interventionists have also conducted interventions in healthcare, criminal justice, and education settings
- Developed electronic Screening Application to assess alcohol use
- Developed model templates for Personalized Normative Feedback
- Have engaged Nationally recognized experts on MI and culturally adapted brief interventions for Latinos, to provide trainings and consultations with our staff
- Our Training Director is currently collaborating as a Co-trainer and Co-investigator in first MINT sponsored training with Cuban professionals

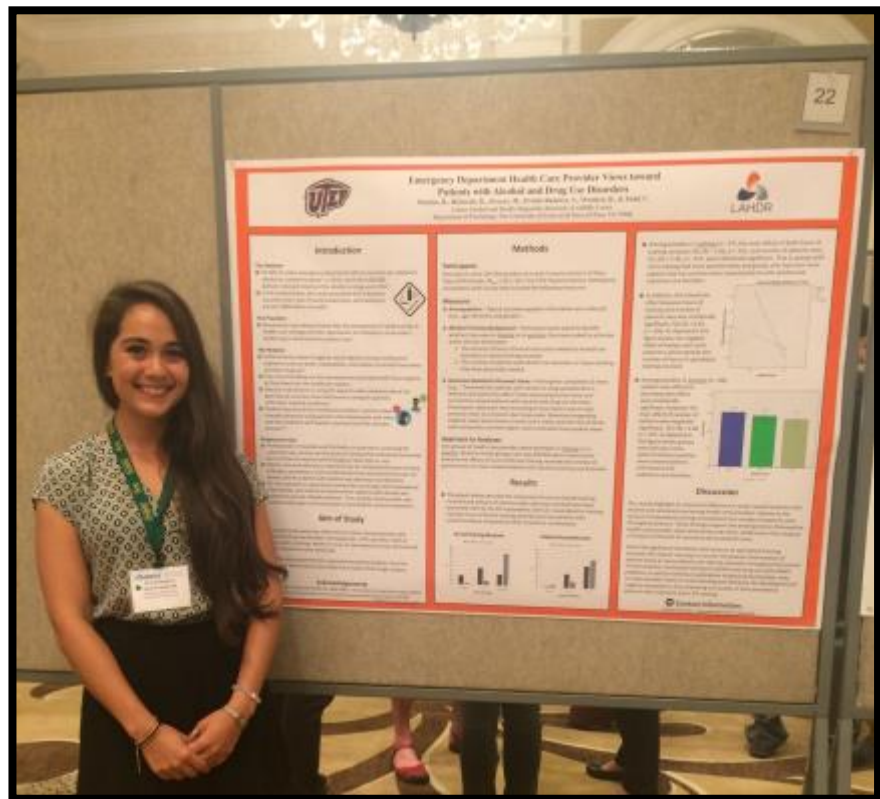
BELOW: The city of El Paso, which is home to the University of Texas at El Paso and the Latino Alcohol & Health Disparities Research Center



Research

Dr. Craig Field was previously the Research Associate Professor at the Health Behavior Research and Training Institute and Program Director of Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) at the University Medical Center Brackenridge (UMCB) in Austin, TX. His work in Austin led him to establish the Screening and Brief Motivational Intervention (SBMI) program in the trauma department at UMCB in 2009 and obtain hospital trauma level 1 status for UMCB. His research experience is in SBMI in medical settings. His completed clinical trial has demonstrated the effectiveness of SBMI in Hispanics (C. A. Field et al., 2010; C. A. Field, Cochran, & Caetano, 2012; C. Field & Caetano, 2010). Patients were recruited from a level 1 urban trauma center over the time span of 2 years. Patients were screened for an alcohol-related injury or alcohol problems and those who screened positive for alcohol misuse were randomized into one of two comparison groups. The comparison groups were brief motivational intervention (BMI) and treatment as usual with assessment (TAU+). The study included 1493 trauma patients and 537 Hispanics. Among the Hispanics who received a BMI, this group demonstrated consistent improvement in their drinking outcomes (e.g., binge drinking at 12 months decreased from 78% to 43%). This positive finding in BMI and Hispanics led to the creation of a culturally adapted SBMI to address drinking in Hispanics at a level 1 trauma center funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Dr. Field has also previously received funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to evaluate differences between brief advice, BMI, and BMI and a booster. He has received honors from groups like the Health Disparities Scholars Program and the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD).

BELOW: Reyna Puentes presented at this year's AMERSA conference on Emergency Department Health Care Provider Views Toward Patients with Alcohol and Drug-Disorders



Our Research

- Development and evaluation of Brief Motivational Interventions
- Identifying the factors that foster Latino's informed decision making in accessing treatment
- Exploring how motivation and positive emotions influence alcohol misuse
- Investigating the factors that create positive and negative outcomes for minority groups
- Improving patients' experiences and screening rates in hospital settings
- Understanding risky health behaviors, such as drinking, smoking, gambling, and sex

Expertise

Dr. Craig Field has received a Masters of Public Health, a PhD in Clinical Psychology, and is a licensed Clinical Psychologist. He has been extensively trained in MI, including training by MI experts like Dr. William R. Miller and Dr. Theresa B. Moyers. In total, Dr. Field has received more than 200 hours of training and is part of the Motivational Interviewing Network Trainers (MINT). He has collaborated on numerous funded efforts with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with the purpose of disseminating evidence based approaches. He has provided 10 years of training on BMIs and ongoing consultations to effectively implement BMI in nearly 100 healthcare facilities. He also serves as the Senior Advisor to the UTEP Provost on Interdisciplinary Health Behavior Research.

BELOW: Celebrating 1-year as a nationally recognized research center with a group photo of our LAHDR members.



Community Engagement

Organizational Review

As Associate Professor at UTEP, Dr. Field established LAHDR and has served as director of the center since its establishment in 2014. The mission of LAHDR is to foster interdisciplinary research and training through the dissemination of health behavior change interventions among Hispanics on the US-Mexico border to promote improved health outcomes. The vision of LAHDR is to become a focal point for interdisciplinary research on health behavior change at UTEP. Since he established LAHDR, he has recruited various staff members who have become assets to the center and are proposed to work on implementing SBMI in regional settings.

Leadership and Management

LAHDR's Program Manager, Norma Nguyen has extensive experience in public health research data management and project management at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC), University of Texas Health Science Center Dallas, and UT Southwestern. LAHDR's Director of Training Patricia Juarez is an expert in the field of MI and received her MI training directly from Dr. William Miller, co-founder of MI. Training Coordinator Miriam Pando is currently a proficient provider of MI and training individuals in MI under the supervision of the Director of Training. Community Coordinator Antonio Martinez has served the El Paso community through work with UTEP, City of El Paso Department of Public Health, The Empowerment Center of El Paso, and University Medical Center of El Paso in roles such as Educator, Case Manager, Event Coordinator, Program Director, and others.



Norma Nguyen, MPH
Program Manager

Norma received her Master's in Public Health (MPH) from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Dallas in 2008 and has worked in the academic research setting from grant writing, study development, data analysis, and manuscript writing in primary and secondary datasets including NHANES. In El Paso, she assisted in study development and managing data collection and reporting of a colorectal cancer prevention study. As program manager of LAHDR she oversees finances and personnel management, focusing on team integration, data planning and protocol development. She enjoys contributing to studies focused on innovations and outreach to eliminate health disparities in the Border community by effecting positive behavior change.



Patricia Juarez
Training Director

Patricia Juárez had the honor of studying directly with Dr. William Miller while attending the University of New Mexico, to obtain a Master's in Clinical Psychology, specializing in addictions (2001). Her skills as a trainer are also due to the excellent mentorship of Dr. Carolina Yahne. Since 2001, after her Training for New Trainers (TNT) training in Italy, Patricia joined the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT), and has remained and active member ever since. For example, in October 2008, Patricia Juárez was invited as a trainer at the TNT in the annual MINT forum in Albuquerque, NM, alongside Dr. Carolina Yahne and Dr. Steven Rosengreen, and she recently presented at both the 2014 and 2016 Annual MINT forums. From 2002 to 2014 she conducted basic MI trainings at least once a year, in the field of addictions and health behaviors, collaborating with major universities in Mexico and with the main inpatient addictions treatment centers in Mexico, OCEANICA. She has also collaborated as Consultant, Trainer and Supervisor in several important research projects founded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA). In LAHDR, her main duties include to provide trainings and supervision to help LAHDR and Community interventionists to become competent in delivering Brief Motivational Interventionists, in adherence with the most current quality standards of practice. She is also responsible for developing and updating training materials.

Our Services

- Training in Motivational Interviewing
- Training in Brief Motivational Intervention
- Coding and Coaching
- Grant Writing Technical Assistance
- Program Evaluation Technical Assistance

LAHDR AFFILIATES

[University of Texas at El Paso \(UTEP\)](#)

[University of Texas at Austin \(UT\), Dr.](#)

[Yessenia Castro](#)

[University Medical Center \(UMC\)](#)

[University of North Texas Health Science](#)

[Center \(UNTHSC\), Dr. Scott Walters](#)

[National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and](#)

[Alcoholism \(NIAA\)](#)

[National Healthcare Safety Network \(NHSN\)](#)

[Research Society on Alcoholism \(RSA\)](#)

[BUILDing Scholars](#)

[Paso del Norte Health Foundation](#)

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Hugo Sandoval, Texas Tech University Health Science Center (TTUHSC)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

[Alliance of Border Collaborative](#)

[Shift+ Initiative](#)

[YMCA](#)

[Dona Ana Health & Human Services](#)

[Alamogordo Public Schools](#)

[Universidad Autonoma De Ciudad Juarez](#)

[El Paso County Community Supervision and](#)

[Corrections Department \(El Paso County CSCD\)](#)



Antonio Moises Martinez

Community Engagement Coordinator

As CEC, Antonio Martinez is charged with coordinating grant activities, co-developing research plans, assisting with community event planning, marketing, and fostering collaborations with external agencies in our region. His educational background consists of a Master of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences. Prior to his involvement with LAHDR, he was working part-time in the Department of Psychology with Dr. Wiebe as a Research Assistant in his lab. Concurrently, he was serving the City of El Paso Department of Public Health as a Surveillance and Prevention Specialist. Before the City of El Paso, he worked for the local AIDS Service Organization as Director of Programs. Before working for 7 years in the field of HIV/AIDS, he built his early experience in the field of the pharmaceutical industry by working in hospital pharmacies for 6 years. His research interests are in assessing character strengths in vulnerable populations. Currently, he is working on qualitatively analyzing stakeholder interviews for a manuscript to inform the field of Dissemination and Implementation Research. Mr. Martinez believes that LAHDR creates the opportunity for new researchers interested in Latino health disparities to study and learn about the Latino culture and issues surrounding this population.