

Derrick J. Forney, Ph.D., MPH

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Miami, FL

Detail-oriented and focused professional with 10+ years of experience in public health and real-world data research, focusing on healthcare disparities. Mixed methods researcher with a background in leading focus groups and interviews, in addition to developing surveys and analyzing data. Proven ability to analyze real-world data, public health policies, programs, and statistical standards to advise leadership on policies, operations, products, and services. Prior experience in delivering communications during novel public health-related matters, including investigating and responding to COVID-19 outbreaks. Collaborates on projects and studies to coordinate efforts across groups. Skilled in using R Studio (Posit), Git, GitHub, SAS, and SPSS for data analysis and visualization. Also, familiar with R Shiny and Machine Learning. Proficient in statistical analysis testing with T-Test, ANOVA, Regression, Structural Equation Modeling, and Social Network Analysis.

Work Experience

Behavioral Science Research Institute, Coral Gables, FL

10/2022 – Present

Evaluation Associate

Conduct applied research focusing on real-world data and information synthesis, analysis, triangulation, and reporting. Perform data cleansing, analysis, visualization, and reporting on quantitative data to enhance the company's technical credibility. Develop theories of change, design logic models, and create evaluation plans. Draft grant applications, reports, presentations, and publications. Serve as point of contact for clients and maintain ongoing communication to support positive relationship building. Multitask on several projects ranging from Pre/Post Test intervention evaluations to using real-world data claims data to understand hospital admissions and reimbursement rates to program evaluations of local community organizations.

- Drafted four grant applications, reports, presentations, and publications in the first 90 days.
- Participated in internal workgroups for Publications & Dissemination and Qualitative Community of Practice
- Collaborated on a \$100K grant and developed a presentation on layering interviews, systems mapping, and ethnographic mapping to be delivered at conferences.

University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Division of Biostatistics, Miami, FL

1/2022 – Present

Post-Doctoral Scholar, Center for HIV Research and Mental Health

Apply knowledge of statistical real-world data analysis testing and visualization, including longitudinal analysis, structural equation modeling, and social network analysis. Developed and collaborated on packages and added functions to packages using R Studio (Posit), R Shiny, and GitHub. Compiles insights in reports and journal articles. Conducts surveys for patient-reported outcomes data and information synthesis on mental health, as well as HIV prevention, treatment, and other beliefs among at-risk populations in Miami Dade County.

- Designed culturally informed research interventions and studies using patient-reported outcome measures in HIV and mental health for racial/ethnic, sexual, and gender minority populations to address social determinants of health using diverse research methods and community-based participatory research (CBPR).

Florida Department of Health, West Palm Beach, FL

5/2020 – 1/2021

Other Personal Services (OPS) Biological Scientist IV

Investigated suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19, applying public health training to improve the population's health in Palm Beach County, FL. Targeted communications to address critical issues (e.g., non-compliance with COVID-19 protocols) after site visits for infection prevention. Delivered a risk assessment and public health management recommendations for persons with potential COVID-19 exposure.

- Responded to complex inquiries using established policies, procedures, and protocols to manage and track COVID-19 outbreaks via contact investigations.

Florida International University, Miami, FL

8/2017 – 12/2021

Associate Research Fellow – Department of Health Promotion & Disease Prevention

Performed and managed research efforts, establishing evidence-based performance measures to monitor patient-reported outcomes in the short- and long term. Directed literature reviews and needs assessments to identify risks, attitudes, and beliefs across diverse groups. Utilized funding research studies and projects to develop grants. Developed survey questionnaires to measure response effects. Leveraged expertise in statistical data analysis testing and visualization, including Structural Equation Modeling, Factor Analysis, Regression, T-test, and ANOVA. Fostered collaboration with team members in preparing shared publications, including book chapters, peer-reviewed journal articles, and poster presentations. Guided and mentored graduate students in health promotion program planning, design, development, and evaluation.

- Spearheaded the development, collection, analysis, and maintenance of the confidentiality of real-world quantitative data, including 900+ survey questionnaires with patient-reported outcome measures, structured/semi-structured interviews, and focus groups for research studies designed to improve patient-reported health outcomes.

Oversaw epidemiological research on the influencing factors of resources and patient-reported health outcomes in Ghana. Analyzed, translated, and coded data findings to recognize trends in sanitation practice and disconnections between water sources and availability.

- Prepared and presented real-world data findings to Ghana government officials and recommended enhancements and advanced programs based on evidence-based interventions.

Education

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Public Health – Health Disparities

Florida International University (FIU), 2021

Master of Public Health (MPH)

Michigan State University, 2012

Bachelor of Science (BS), Human Biology

Michigan State University, 2010

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Ramírez-Ortiz, D., Forney, D. J., Sheehan, D. M., Cano, M. Á., Romano, E., & Sánchez, M. (2021). Pre- and Post-immigration HIV Testing Behaviors among Young Adult Recent Latino Immigrants in Miami-Dade County, Florida. *AIDS and Behavior*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-021-03233-9>
- Cano, M. Á., Marsiglia, F. F., Meca, A., De La Rosa, M., Ramírez-Ortiz, D., Sánchez, M., Colón Burgos, J. F., Alamilla, S. G., Wuyke, G., Parras, D., Ali, S. Z., Forney, D. J., Varas-Rodríguez, E., Ruvalcaba, Y., Contreras, A., Ahmed, S., Vega-Luna, B., Ochoa, L. G., Cuadra, R., & Domínguez García, M. J. (2021). Psychosocial stress, bicultural identity integration, and bicultural self-efficacy among Hispanic emerging adults. *Stress and health: Journal of the International Society for the Investigation of Stress*, 37(2), 392–398. <https://doi.org/10.1002/smi.2993>
- Sanchez M., Sheehan D., & Forney D.J. (2019). HIV among Latino Immigrants in the United States: The Impact of Socio-Cultural Determinants of Health and Migration. In Diaz, Franch, Sacramento & Rojas Editor (Eds), *HIV/AIDS Migration and Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Perspective* (pp. 105-136). Latina American Council of Social Sciences (CLASCO).

PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACTS

- Forney, D.J., Sheehan DM, Dale, SK, Li, T., De La Rosa, M., Sanchez, M. (2022, November). The Impact of HIV-Related Stigma on The Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Retention in HIV Care among Adults Living with HIV in Florida, Presented at the 17th International Conference on HIV Treatment And Prevention Adherence, Washington, DC.
- Ichite A., Johnson, S., Al Khoury, W., Forney, D.J., Darrow, W., Generation Net: Exploring Internet Usage and Its Association with Academic Performance, Mental Health, and Sleep Habits Amongst College Students. Presented at the 2019 American Public Health Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- Forney, D.J., Bhatt, C., Preston, S., Sanchez, M. (2018, April). Race/Ethnicity and Gender Differences in HIV Testing among High School Adolescents in the United States: Results from the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Presented at the 2018 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting.
- Sanchez, M., Dawson, C., Diez, S., Daniels, E.V., Forney, D.J., Cano, M.A., Romano, E., Rojas, P., De La Rosa, M. (2017, October). Religious social capital: Its impact on social support and acculturative stress among recent Latino immigrants. Presented at the National Hispanic Science Network Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ
- Forney D.J., W. Wang, M. Sanchez, Race/Ethnicity and Gender Differences in HIV Testing Risk Factors Among High School Adolescents in The United States. (2020, March) Accepted to Bridging the Gap: Latinx Community & Health Equity Research Conference. Miami, FL.

Additional Information

Honors & Awards:

- McKnight Dissertation Fellowship, 2020-2021
- FIU Health Disparities Initiative Fellowship, 2017-2021
- FIU Dissertation Fellowship, 2021
- First Place, Graduate Student Appreciation Week Scholar Symposium Award, FIU, 2018

"I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all of my statements are true, correct, complete, and made in good faith."
[05/26/2023]