About Marco Méndez

Marco Méndez has been with the Health District for almost two years, working primarily on the Overdose Data to Action and Ending the HIV Epidemic grants from the CDC. A Las Vegas native, he was happy for the opportunity to move back to his hometown and effect positive change in the community. Marco completed his bachelor's degree at New York University, double majoring in biology and Spanish, before starting his public health career in Denver, CO, where he worked as a program lead for a nonprofit research organization that specialized in contractual surveillance of opioid and stimulant abuse, misuse, and diversion for multiple clients. While living and working in the Denver area, Marco also completed his master's degree in applied epidemiology through the University of Arizona. Marco's research interest is in social determinants of health and equity and how these relate to health disparities in the community.

Marco Gabriel G. Méndez, MPH

Experience

Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD)
Las Vegas, NV   January 2020 – Present

Epidemiologist (January 2020 - Present)

Assisted in achieving objectives and preparing deliverables for two CDC-based grants: Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) and Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE). Primary duties for OD2A included planning and operationalizing evaluative activities and analyses in conjunction with a contracted external evaluation agency, designing and maintaining data collection media (online and paper-based surveys via Alchemer platform), and reviewing and maintaining data integrity of all information collected from the public. Assisted in planning and coordinating data submission from various local partner agencies to facilitate both program evaluation and data-driven deliverables for CDC. Used SAS to import, clean, and analyze OD2A-related data within the context of existing datasets. Developed and used linking methodology in dataset preparation. Wrote and submitted surveillance updates for annual progress reporting to CDC via Partner's Portal. Primary duties for EHE included planning and operationalizing evaluative, data collection and analytical activities to achieve explicit grant objectives. Attended weekly and monthly workgroup sessions with external stakeholders who collaborate with SNHD for the EHE grant. Participated in the COVID-19 public health response by maintaining and disseminating surveillance data of place exposures in reports for internal stakeholders and senior leadership. Reported Clark County data, which included a daily line list of place exposures, a daily list of potential COVID-19 clusters, and a weekly report that included infection rates by ZIP code and other demographic information, along with a line list of locations of interest to senior leadership. Report recipients included the Acting District Health Officer, Acting Chief Medical Officer, and SNHD Environmental Health. Data were aggregated, linked, and calculated using several SAS programs. Performed literature reviews for both the OD2A and EHE grants. Completed other duties as assigned by the Epidemiology Supervisor or other leadership.

Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Safety (RMPDS)
Denver, CO   June 2016 – October 2019

Researcher I (August 2018 – October 2019)

Program lead for survey-based data collection programs that target patients and providers of substance use treatment centers as part of the RADARS® System mosaic surveillance approach. Participated in survey update processes and maintained communication regarding survey instrument implementation and data collection between RMPDS and research partners. Prepared, reviewed and submitted required documentation for review by institutional review board. Maintained current knowledge of upcoming and executed client contracts and associated deliverables. Maintained a state of audit readiness by maintaining and creating necessary documentation for submission to RMPDS Quality Assurance department. Planned agendas for and conducted program operations meetings at least monthly. Reviewed meeting minutes generated by research assistant for accuracy. Participated in contracted report generation, review and delivery to clients. Maintained close working relationships with biostatisticians, research scientists and the operations team for report generation. Participated in site visit audit of research partners. Reviewed program invoices against the operational budget and signed off on them. Coordinated large-scale audit of historical program data that involved approximately 2,000 surveys over the course of six weeks. Coordinated time allocation of eight department personnel, along with training four of the eight personnel in auditing procedures. Reviewed all data audit findings and coordinated rectifying them with external research partners. Conducted regular meetings and huddles with internal stakeholders (biostatistics and data management teams) and senior leadership to ensure wide consensus and clear communication of project progress. Participated in the development of streamlined approaches to data collection and data quality. Attended weekly check-in meetings with research assistant to provide feedback and updates related to program operations. Assisted with other tasks as assigned by the Research Project Manager and/or Operations Manager.

Research Assistant II (November 2017 – August 2018)

Research Assistant I (June 2016 – November 2017)

Assisted in achieving research project goals by downloading, collecting and validating data. Performed SAS log validations to maintain data integrity. Captured data through documented processes using REDCap data entry forms and maintained team Smartsheet project management tool. Validated client deliverables for data accuracy, formatting and content. Assisted in preparation of PowerPoint slides and abstracts for internal and external presentations.

Marco Gabriel G. Méndez, MPH

Participated in literature review to advance current research project methodology and to discover alternative software tools and algorithms to improve research efficiency and accuracy. Aided in training process overhaul and establishment of quantitative, documented training procedures. Trained new team members and documented training. Assisted in ensuring audit readiness by maintaining and creating necessary documentation for submission to RMPDS Quality Assurance department. Collected monthly post counts for international research partners. Assisted with other tasks as assigned by the Research Projects Coordinator.

Education	***University of Arizona – December 2018*** ***Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health*** Master of Public Health, Applied Epidemiology • GPA 3.83/4.0 • Excellence in Public Health Practice Online MPH Student Award ***New York University – May 2016*** ***College of Arts & Science*** New York, NY – Bachelor of Arts, Double Major in Biology & Spanish and Latin American Literatures and Cultures • Dean's List for 2015-2016 academic year
Qualifications	Professional communication and organizational skills. Fast learner, eager to collaborate with coworkers and junior staff to complete assigned projects. Independent and self-assured. Fluent in Spanish, both written and spoken. Scientific training in biology, especially in anatomy and physiology. Basic knowledge of R, SAS and Stata statistical software packages. Basic knowledge of SAS regular expressions syntax. Quality assurance and documentation-oriented.