



Minority AIDS Research Center (MARC)

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Pictured: residential participants at Imbeleko Foundation; MARC's partner in South Africa

MARC is dedicated to advancing sustainable:

- education in basic & applied health sciences
- translational & clinical research
- behavioral & technological innovation
- reduction in HIV/AIDS-related disparities and other health inequities among minority populations
- graduating effective health practitioners & biomedical professionals

HRSA Opioid Award

MARC received new funding through US DHHS and our partner, Aliviane as lead, for the RCORP. This is a multi-year opioid-focused initiative supported by HRSA and aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, in high-risk rural communities. The Aliviane-led consortium will conduct a regional needs assessment in Texas Health Service Region 10 (the five West Texas rural counties) to identify opportunities and gaps in OUD prevention, treatment, and/or recovery workforce and services. The goal is to develop workforce, service delivery, and sustainability plans for prevention, treatment and recovery.

New UTEP Research Center to Target Opioid Abuse on the Texas-Mexico Border

Originally published July 25, 2019
By Laura L. Acosta



RCORP consortium members include, from left, Thenral Mangadu, UTEP MARC director; Isaac Duran, CASFV battering intervention and prevention program; Rosa Escalante, Aliviane and MARC program coordinator; Ivonne Tapia, Aliviane CEO; Nate Robinson, UTEP MARC deputy director; Guillermo Valenzuela, Aliviane COO; and Adriana Corona Luevanos, OBPH program manager. Photo: Ivan Pierre Aguirre/UTEP Communications



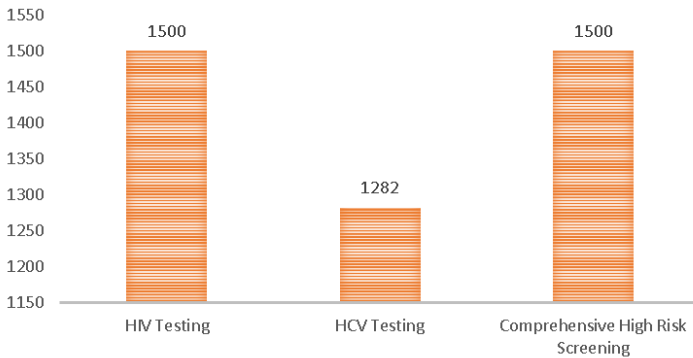
Student Highlights:

Graduate Research Assistant **Ricardo Silvera** (a) has been critical in helping the Mujer Saludable, Familia Feliz Program by collaborating with a team of undergraduate research assistants to ensure participant retention and program evaluation. 2019 MPH graduate **Tamanna Ferdous** (b) was a GRA with the Mujer Saludable, Familia Feliz program. With exemplary performance, she helped ensure accurate documentation of program outcomes, an MPH thesis and a manuscript now prepared for peer review. Dr. Ferdous is currently a resident at TTUHSC Paul Foster Medical school.

Served:

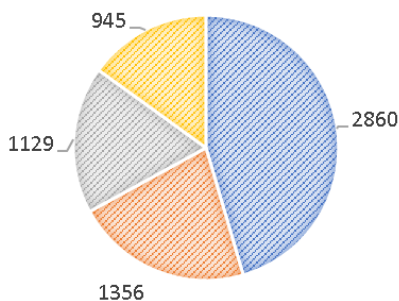
Overview of numbers served per service:

TESTING & SCREENING



OUTREACH & EDUCATION

■ Violence ■ Sexual assault support ■ Safe Sex ■ Nutrition



Contract / Grant Sample List:

Mental Health Awareness Training for Healthy US-MX Border Communities

Funder: DHHS – Subst Abuse & Mntl Health
09/30/2018 to 09/29/2021 \$250,000

Culturally Competent Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Service Integration with HIV Primary Care

Funder: DHHS – Subst Abuse & Mntl Health
09/30/2018 to 09/29/2022 \$1,940,000

UTEP Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Initiative For Reduction Of Sexual Assault & Violence

Funder: Office of Violence Against Women
10/01/2018 to 09/30/2021 \$300,000

Comprehensive Substance-Abuse Prevention, Treatment & Support Services for Pregnant & Post-Partum Women

Funder: DHHS – Subst Abuse & Mntl Health
09/30/2018 to 09/29/2023 \$2,534,000

Targeted Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Capacity Expansion for Minority Women

Funder: DHHS – Subst Abuse & Mntl Health
10/01/2018 to 09/30/2021 \$605,000

Targeted Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Capacity Expansion for Minority Women

Funder: DHHS – Subst Abuse & Mntl Health
10/01/2018 to 09/30/2021 \$1,505,000



Director's Note:

Summer 2019 has been exciting for MARC teams, everything from documenting impact on established projects to new endeavors! We welcome Dr. Heather Wilson, UTEP's new President as she visited MARC in August 2019. In the past quarter, MARC and partners started activities for the Rural Communities Opioid Response Planning consortium in five rural TX-MX border counties. Our impact from the current MARC portfolio includes 2800+ HIV, SUD, and mental health related outreach education encounters, free HIV testing to 1500 and HCV testing 1200+ community members, along with treatment and referrals. Such impact is possible with our undergraduate and graduate student research assistants; to-date 21 UTEP students have been trained through full-time funded research assistantships and we welcome a new MPH student from Imbeleko. We look forward to continuing to serve our communities, local and global, in fall 2019, Go Miners!

Pending Proposals / Development:

MARC recently submitted or will submit proposals to:

- National Endowment of the Arts on a study for Therapeutic and non-Therapeutic Arts Benefits for SUD communities.
- USAID through GAHP for support and scaling of HIV interventions in Africa.
- National Science Foundation for development of artificial intelligence and machine learning innovations for behavioral health identification and intervention.
- Honda Corporate American Honda Foundation

Imbeleko Student

The first of a hopeful many from MARC partner Imbeleko Foundation in South Africa, Nqobile

Nzama has been admitted as an MPH student at. She will also be a graduate research assistant and thesis mentee with Dr. Mangadu in MARC. At Imbeleko, a MARC partner in the Global Alliance for Healthier Populations (GAHP), Ms. Nzama was a scholarship recipient and mentee through higher secondary school and undergraduate education.



Pending and Upcoming:

Website launch: SEP 2019

Outreach events for Domestic Violence Prevention Month: OCT 2019

Advisory Board Meeting: NOV 2019

