

#268 Tonya Taylor

Advisor(s):

The COVID Cohort Study (CCS)

The novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, caused by the highly contagious Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has revealed indisputable evidence that social determinants of health (SDoH) produce higher burdens of disease and death among vulnerable populations. In NYC, the epicenter of the US crisis, Black and Latinx are respectively 22% and 29% of the city's population; however, account for 67% of non-fatal hospitalization and 61% of mortalities. These disparities are driven by concomitant comorbid health risk factors (cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes) and SDoH, including racism, poverty, crowded housing, food insecurity, employment risks, and the digital divide. In March 2020, 98 College of Medicine students conducted a needs assessment of SDoH and unmet needs among 1400 patients in four ambulatory care clinics, using selected PRAPARE variables. Recognizing the enormous potential contribution of this study, we revised and transformed the QI study into an observational case-control cohort study. We added biannual follow-up assessments, chart review, validated measures, and a qualitative sub-study. New measures include the WHO measures of knowledge, perceived risk, prevention self-efficacy, and adherence, information-seeking behaviors and trusted sources, additional food insecurity items, the Experience of Maternity Care survey, Lubben Social Network Scale, Brief UCLA Loneliness Scale, the PHQ-9, GAD-7, and Cognitive function domain from the SF-36. We have six sub-studies: Food insecurity (Marquez, PI), Pregnancy Experiences (Pardo, PI), COVID perceived risk and prevention (Taylor, PI), (Mis)Information and Trusted sources (Taylor, PI), Communication inequalities, and older adults (Taylor & Marquez, PIs), and essential workers (Purvil-Ulysse, PI). We have also developed an Elective to allow students to use this platform to conduct independent research.