



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Paul D. Juarez, Ph.D.
Meharry Medical College

Briana Jegier, Ph.D.
Baptist Health Science University

Danielle King, Psy.D.
Cherokee Health Systems



PARTNERSHIPS

Advisory group: Weekly partner meeting
Resource sharing w/ community: **24%**¹

Partner Type	Number
Community-based organization/ nongovernmental organization	44
Academic	11
Health care	12
Government	40
Small minority businesses	110
Other/unknown	14
Total	231



FOCUS COMMUNITIES

Four regions in Tennessee:
Memphis/West; Nashville/
Central; and Knoxville/East,
Chattanooga/Southeast



Summary of Activities

COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION

Education

Education flyers; weekly podcasts; webinars; ice cream trucks delivering COVID-19 misinformation

Media

Radio; newspaper editorials

Virtual/social media

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube Live, YouTube Channel

Language

Spanish, Arabic, Somali, Kurdish

VACCINATIONS

- ≈40,000 vaccinations provided
- >12,500 COVID vaccines administered at community events
- TN CEAL is statewide vaccination coordinating entity
- Vaccination events at workplaces in partnership with employers, including large businesses with high proportion of socially vulnerable employees and small minority-owned businesses
- Partnerships with >100 churches on vaccination and literacy events
- Partnerships with nursing homes and senior living facilities to provide vaccinations
- Use of state vaccination data to target vaccination events
- Website focused on vaccination events



Summary of Activities

COMMUNITY EDUCATORS

- All research assistants, community outreach workers, and volunteers collecting data were encouraged to complete online community health worker (CHW) training certificate program
- Several CHWs loaned to state Department of Health
- Student Health Ambassadors from Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Tennessee for COVID-19 outreach

CLINICAL TRIALS RECRUITMENT

- Communicate regularly with two clinical trials in Nashville to support recruitment of African American and Hispanic/Latino participants
- Partners conduct outreach for trials doing recruitment

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

COMMON SURVEY (CS)	CS1	CS2
Sites submitting data	N/A	1
Data collection waves	N/A	2 (2 cohorts), 3 (1 cohort)
Sampling strategy	N/A	Probability
Sample size	N/A	1,184

Community assessment

- Target population: African American, Latino, immigrant/refugee, low socioeconomic status, rural communities
- Survey of employees of small minority-owned businesses and community members at vaccine events
- Focus groups with small minority-owned business owners and employees
- 45 interviews with community partners
- Surveys and listening sessions with churches

Impact of COVID-19 on special populations

- Secondary data analyses and photovoice for pregnant/expecting women
- Secondary data analyses for elderly/senior living populations

Capacity building

- Train research assistants, community outreach workers, and volunteers to administer CEAL research

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH (SDOH)

- Partnerships with minority-owned small businesses and large employers with high proportions of socially vulnerable employees
- Inclusion of partners to provide services such as food and housing assistance at vaccination events

DISSEMINATION

Peer-reviewed

- 5 total peer-reviewed publications²
- 1 peer-reviewed publication with nonacademic co-author

¹ From Year 2 application budget narrative, actual allocation may be different. Defined as the percent of the project budget allocated to nonacademic organizations (excluding state government), community-based positions, community members, incentives for engagement (not data collection), or community-based resources such as office space, equipment, etc.

²Alcendor DJ. Targeting COVID vaccine hesitancy in rural communities in Tennessee: implications for extending the COVID-19 pandemic in the South. *Vaccines (Basel)*. 2021;9(11):1279. doi:10.3390/vaccines9111279

Alcendor DJ, Juarez PD, Matthews-Juarez P, et al. Meharry Medical College mobile vaccination program: implications for increasing COVID-19 vaccine uptake among minority communities in Middle Tennessee. *Vaccines (Basel)*. 2022;10(2):211. doi:10.3390/vaccines10020211

Alcendor DJ, Matthews-Juarez P, Smoot D, et al. Breakthrough COVID-19 infections in the US: implications for prolonging the pandemic. *Vaccines (Basel)*. 2022;10(5):755. doi:10.3390/vaccines10050755

Juarez PD, Ramesh A, Hood DB, et al. The effects of air pollution, meteorological parameters, and climate change on COVID-19 comorbidity and health disparities: a systematic review. *Environ Chem Ecotoxicol*. 2022;4:194-210. doi:10.1016/j.enceco.2022.10.002

Tabatabai M, Juarez PD, Matthews-Juarez P, et al. An analysis of COVID-19 mortality during the dominance of alpha, delta, and omicron in the USA. *J Prim Care Community Health*. 2023;14:21501319231170164. doi: 10.1177/21501319231170164