



# UC Center Sacramento

## Drug and Suicide Deaths in California: Leveraging 'Big Data' to Identify Vulnerable Populations and Inform Policy Solutions

***Sidra Goldman-Mellor, UC Merced***

Wednesday  
May 13th

12:00–1:00pm

UC Center  
Sacramento  
1130 K Street  
Room LL 22  
Sac, CA 95814

Deaths due to drugs have increased 50% in California over the past 15 years, and suicide deaths have increased 22%. Addressing this public health crisis will require identifying and intervening among individuals at high risk for drug overdose or suicide death. Healthcare settings are a promising but under-utilized context for such efforts. Dr. Goldman-Mellor's research links patient healthcare data from California's Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) with vital statistics death records to track drug, suicide, and other mortality outcomes among emergency department patients and postpartum women. Her findings show drastically elevated rates of drug and suicide death among patients presenting with mental health, substance use, and chronic disease conditions, and reveal that drugs and suicide contribute disproportionately to mortality among postpartum women. This work highlights the importance of using 'Big Data' to inform policy solutions for an ongoing public health challenge.



Register by:  
May 6th at:  
[uccs.ucdavis.edu](https://uccs.ucdavis.edu)

Lunch will be  
served

**Sidra Goldman-Mellor**, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Public Health at the University of California, Merced. Trained as an epidemiologist, her research focuses on the social, clinical, and economic determinants and outcomes of suicidal behavior and other mental health problems across the life course. Her work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the U.C. Firearm Violence Research Center, and the Hellman Family Foundation, and is regularly featured on media outlets including the Sacramento Bee and NPR. Dr. Goldman-Mellor earned her B.A. from Cornell University and her M.P.H. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

*For questions contact Brooke Miller-Jacobs at (916) 445-5161 or [bmmillerjacobs@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bmmillerjacobs@ucdavis.edu)*