



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

In light of the community concerns regarding COVID-19, this talk will be given as a webinar. The link will be provided on Tuesday, May 12th to those that have registered by 5:00 pm on Monday, May 11th at uccs.ucdavis.edu.

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.



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

The views and opinions expressed during this lecture are those of the speaker and do not necessarily represent the views of UCSS.