Research Opportunity

Preceptor Name: Anna Wilkinson / Belinda Reininger / Susan Fisher-Hoch

Campus: Brownsville

Overall grant or other program name: Knowledge of New and Emerging Tobacco Products

Briefly describe your overall research program:

Hispanic youth are at greater risk than their peers from any other minority group in the United States (U.S.) of experimentation with a variety of tobacco products (YRBSS, 2011). This situation places them at increased risk for subsequent nicotine addiction as young adults as almost 90% of current smokers tried their first cigarette before age 18. Among Hispanics in Texas (95% are of Mexican heritage) the persistent and high use of cigars, cigarillos or small cigars is of particular concern. Although use of these products has decreased among other minority groups, use among Hispanic youth has remained constant and high (hovering around 16%). Taken together, these findings suggest that Hispanic young adults are particularly likely to experiment with the ever increasing variety of new and emerging tobacco products. Despite this, little is known about use of new and emerging tobacco products among different Hispanic young adult populations, or about their knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about these products.

To address this gap in scientific knowledge, we are leveraging our strong community ties and experience to recruit 100 young adults between the ages of 18 and 29 years from Cameron County, one of the poorest counties in the U.S. on the Texas-México border. Specifically we are recruiting from the ongoing Cameron County Hispanic Cohort (CCHC), a well-characterized population-based cohort maintained and developed by The University of Texas School of Public Health. Participants of the CCHC are residents of the City of Brownsville, which recently passed a comprehensive city-wide smoke-free air ordinance. To ensure variation in experience with tobacco / nicotine products, 50% of the participants are current users. We are using mixed methods to develop a structured interview. We are conducting focus groups to inform the development of a structured interview that seeks to learn about young adults’ experience with all types of products and traditional and non-traditional sources of exposure to pro- and anti-tobacco marketing and media. Specifically, we aim to:
1. Document experience with, and knowledge about new and emerging nicotine products (e.g., e-cigarettes, hookahs, etc.) and traditional tobacco products (e.g., cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, snus, etc.).
2. Document traditional and non-traditional sources of exposure to pro-and anti-tobacco marketing and media about the new and emerging nicotine and traditional tobacco products.
3. Examine associations between use and knowledge of new, emerging nicotine products / traditional tobacco products and sources of exposure to pro-product marketing and media.

Name of specific project in which a student will participate:
Knowledge of New and Emerging Tobacco Products

Specific duties of student:

1. Assist in recruitment of participants to focus group.
2. Assist in conduct of focus groups.
3. Assist in coding of focus group data.
4. Assist in recruitment of participants from CCHC to complete questionnaire on tobacco products.
5. Conduct data analysis examining associations of demographic factors and tobacco use behaviors.
6. Assist in development of structured interview.

This would be a good fit for someone with what major or interests?

Tobacco prevention
Hispanic Youth
Research using Mixed Methods

Students begin June 2 (orientation day) and end either July 25 or August 8.
If you will be out for a week or more during this time, when would you be gone?

Anna will be out June 4 – 28. Anna will be in Brownsville July 9 - 18
Belinda will be out June 24 – 27 and July 11 – 23

Who would serve as preceptor during your absence (name and credentials, please)?

NB: you may submit as many research opportunities as you like, but to be competitive you should probably limit yourself to no more than three.

E-mail your finished form(s) to cpritsummer@uth.tmc.edu