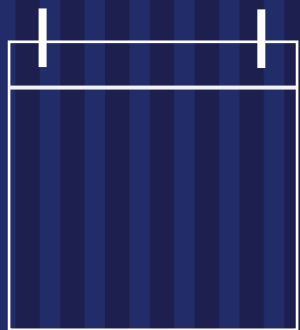


Every Day
CADCA Trains:
PREVENTION TODAY FOR
A SAFER TOMORROW

32ND ANNUAL NATIONAL LEADERSHIP
F·O·R·U·M
& SAMHSA'S 18TH PREVENTION DAY

January 31 – February 3, 2022
Gaylord National | National Harbor, MD

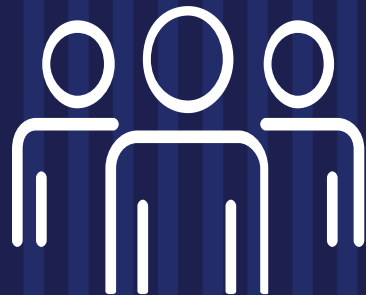
Top Substance Use and Misuse Training Event of the Year



4 Days



100+ Trainings



3,000+ Attendees



Networking

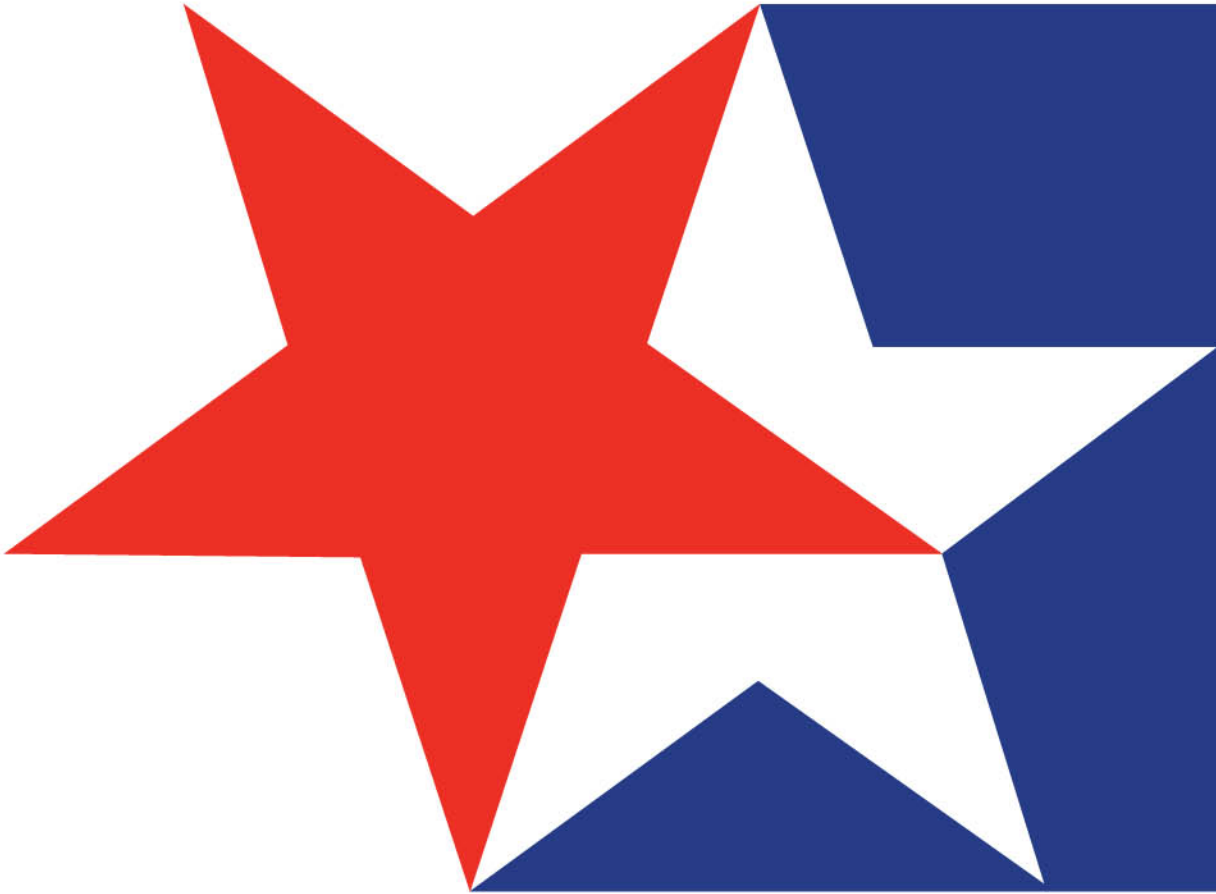


Wellness Activities

Register Early and Save
December 13: Early Bird | January 18: Advance

CADCA.org/Forum2022

Become a CADCA Member and Save \$200 on Registration



Youth Participatory Action Research: Youth as Agents of Change

September 29, 2021

Research into Action Webinar Series



Today's Presenter



Elizabeth Salerno Valdez, Ph.D.

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Center for Community Health Equity Research

YOUTH PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH: Youth As Agents Of Change

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Amherst

BE REVOLUTIONARY™



OUTLINE

- Background and Introduction
- Specific Aim 1: Identify and describe YPAR studies for adolescent substance use prevention
- Specific Aim 2: YPAR on the U.S.-Mexico border
- Acknowledgements

YOUTH PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

- Freirean Pedagogy: Community members systematically identify social problems and find solutions for them
- Roots in Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
- Empowers youth to engage in social action in their schools, communities, and at the policy level
- Used to successfully decrease rates of substance use among at-risk youth

LEVELS OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

- **Participants and the nature of their involvement**

- Youth as experts
- Long-standing relationships
- Positionality
- Community champion

- **Shaping the purpose/scope of research**

- Research question
- Mutual learning

- **Research implementation and context**

- Project/data partnership

- **Nature of the research outcomes**

- Youth-led dissemination
- Action-oriented

AIM 1: SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

- 1. Summarize the published evidence regarding YPAR for adolescent substance use prevention**
- 2. Articulate the degree of youth engagement in the research process**
- 3. Summarize the methodologies used in YPAR studies for adolescent substance use prevention**
- 4. Synthesize where more research is needed**

AIM 1: METHODS

INCLUSION- Articles Reporting On:

- **YPAR/CBPR intervention/program/project intended to prevent adolescent substance use**
- **Studies conducted in partnership with youth/adolescents**
- **Experimental studies**
- **Peer-reviewed**
- **English-language**
- **Published before April 30, 2018**

AIM 1: DATA EXTRACTION

- Targeted populations
- Overarching participatory approaches
- Degree of Youth Engagement
 - *(Reliability-tested Guidelines for Assessing Participatory Research Projects by Mercer et al.)*
- Methodologies used
- Targeted substances
- Outcomes
- Reported challenges

AIM 1: RESULTS

Literature searches yielded 547 titles of which only 15 met inclusion criteria

- **Targeted populations**
 - Most studies involved youth of vulnerable backgrounds (minority, rural, street-involved, refugee, survivors of conflict)
 - Ages 10-24
 - Samples sizes ranged from 10 to 122 participants

AIM 1: RESULTS

- **Participants and the nature of their involvement**
 - Provisions to develop trust between researchers/youth
- **Shaping the purpose/scope of research**
 - Develop research question
- **Research implementation and context**
 - Data collection, analysis
- **Nature of the research outcomes**
 - Dissemination of findings, sustainability

AIM 1: RESULTS

Participatory Approaches

- Participatory Action Research
- CBPR
- Positive Youth Development
- Hart's Ladder of Participation

Methodologies

- Photovoice/Qualitative Methods
- Youth-Led Video Development
- Mixed Methods
- Leadership/Craft Development
- GIS mapping
- Action-oriented

AIM 1: RESULTS

Youth Outcomes

- Learned about substance use and influential factors in their community
- Decreased approval of peer drug use
- Increased dialogue between adults and youth
- Decreased substance use
- Research skills
- Leadership skills
- Social Action

AIM 1: RESULTS

Community Outcomes

- Received substance use-specific data tailored to the needs of the community
- Received community-specific interventions and programs
- Re-shaped community perceptions of youth (positive)
- Youth cooperation with local media
- Youth-to-youth dissemination of findings

AIM 1: CONCLUSIONS

Promising Approaches

- YPAR with vulnerable youth
- Youth engagement in research from inception to dissemination
- Photovoice/qualitative methods

Room for Improvement

- Need to expand evaluation of YPAR projects to include individual and community-level substance use outcome measures
- Need to engage youth at all stages of the research process

AIM 2: YPAR ON THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

Mexican-American adolescents living on the U.S.-Mexico border experience higher rates of substance use-related problems compared to non-border Mexican-Americans and their non-Hispanic white counterparts.

Higher rates of binge drinking, drinking and driving, riding with a driver who has been drinking.

Higher rates of co-occurring alcohol and substance use disorders among border adult residents (14.7%) compared to non-border residents (7.2%).

BACKGROUND

- 44 U.S. counties with most of their population within the 100-km limit of the U.S.-Mexico border.
- 15.3 million people and roughly half identify as Latinx/o/a or Hispanic.
- The Latinx population is the most rapidly growing ethnic group in the United States



BACKGROUND

Environmental factors are central to the experimentation with and initiation of substance use among adolescents.

The unique environmental context of the U.S. Mexico border might exacerbate the risk of substance use for border adolescents.

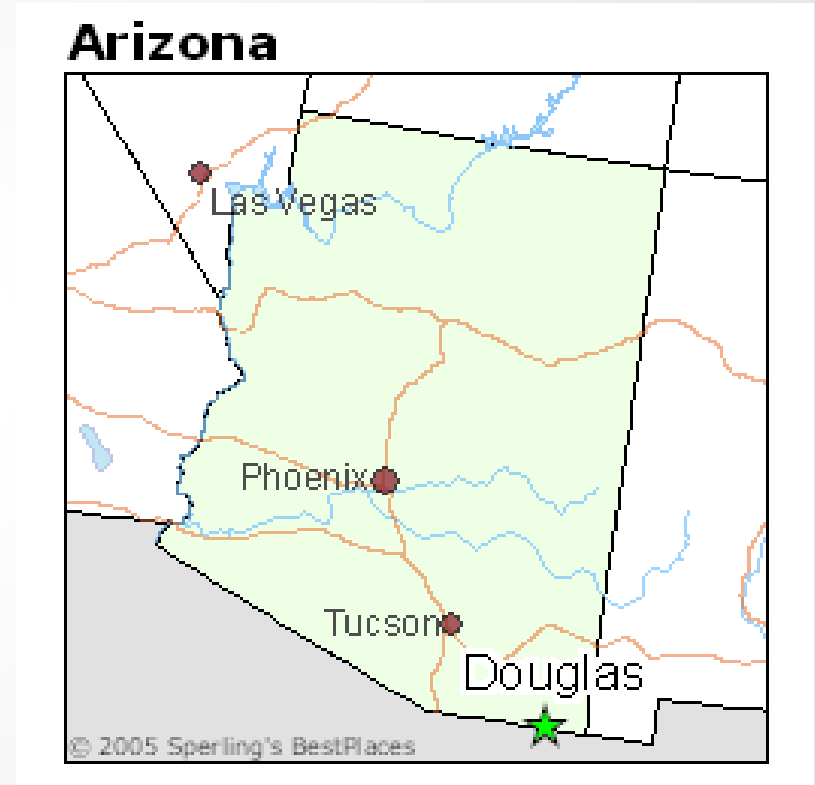
Sociocultural characteristics of the border region might be protective against substance use among adolescents.

PHOTOVOICE

Identify the environmental factors that are perceived to increase the risk of or protect against substance use among adolescents living at the U.S.-Mexico border using Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) and the Photovoice method.

METHODS

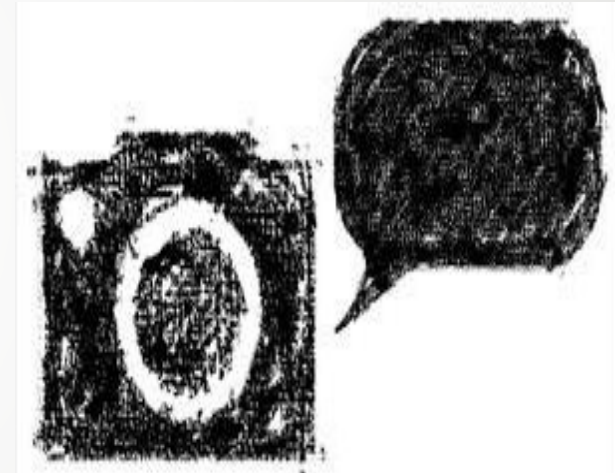
- **YPAR Approach**
- **Participants: Cochise County Youth Health Coalition**
 - 23 youth ages 14-18
 - Hispanic and/or Mexican origin
- **Study setting: Douglas, AZ**
- **Participant assent, parental consent**



METHODS

Photovoice

1. Process of collecting information and expressing issues and concerns through photos
2. Enable people to record and reflect their community's strengths and concerns
3. Promote critical dialogue and knowledge of important issues through large and small group discussion of photographs
4. Reach policy-makers



Prompt	Definition
General Risk and Protective Factors	Border-bound factors that increase the risk of or protect against adolescent substance use in the community
Drug Trafficking	Movement, storage, or selling of drugs in the community
Poverty/Unemployment	Characteristics of and contributors to poverty and/or unemployment in the community
Cross border access to substances	Cross border mobility/ability to easily cross and purchase ATOD at age 18 (or no id), attend clubs at age 18 (or no id), and attend parties where alcohol is served to minors (on both sides of the border). Greater availability and lower cost of alcohol and prescription pharmaceuticals (on the Mexican side), increased alcohol advertising
Border community and immigration stressors	Border militarization (e.g., law enforcement presence, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol presence, the border fence), perceived discrimination, immigration-related stress (i.e., immigration-related concerns for family, friends, or self)
Mexican culture	Specific cultural aspects that might be protective include the presence of strong family and social support systems, religiosity, and the ‘immigrant advantage’, which is defined as the fact that immigrants tend to be healthier, more resilient, and have strong work ethics and aspirations

METHODS

Debrief Sessions: SHOWed Method

- What do you SEE?
- What is really HAPPENING?
- How does this relate to OUR life?
- WHY does this situation, concern or strength exist?
- What can we do to EDUCATE others about this situation, concern or strength?
- What can or needs to be DONE?



METHODS

Group Thematic Analysis

- **Affinity Diagrams**
 - Spread out photos/narratives on flat surface
 - Sort photos to identify patterns
 - Identify themes
- **Develop definitions for themes**

Qualitative Analysis

- Preliminary codebook
- Transcription of debrief sessions
- Group coding of one transcript
- Finalize code book
- Code remaining transcripts
- Member-checking
- Triangulate data sources

STRUGGLING LOCAL ECONOMY



The Box

“The Box” movie theater that closed down 2-3 years ago. It’s very empty-looking and has signs of disrepair such as graffiti. This building was the only movie theater in Douglas and a popular spot for people to go for fun on the weekend. Without this activity in our community, youth are forced to find other things to do and this can lead to starting destructive activities. It exists as a result of the poor economic state in Douglas. Steps need to be taken to improve the economic state in Douglas and create activities for youth.

NORMALIZATION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING



Big Truck

“I see a semi truck. Big trucks are many times used to cross drugs across the border.

It makes drugs more accessible and adds to the problem of consumption in Douglas. Transportation is big in Douglas (jobs). With the big size of the truck is it easier to hide and cross more drugs.

CROSS-BORDER ACCESS TO SUBSTANCES

Alhambra club

“I see the Alhambra club in Agua Prieta. All the clubbing factors such as alcohol are accessible to minors. Many of our peers will visit this club and drink or use drugs illegally. It is a concern that minors are getting into things they shouldn't be getting into. We can educate minors on the risks and hazards in partaking in these activities. Stricter IDing needs to be enforced”



CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

American Dreamer

“What is really happening is our family members or our parents motivation of living a good life in the United States, with their kids, which in return will help the kids live prosperously here. In Agua Prieta, Mexico, our neighbor town, most of the people there have crossed to Douglas at least once to for the purpose of buying what's needed, school, and/ or seeking a job. Mostly adults from our neighboring town seek a job in Mcdonald's, Burger King, and/ or anywhere else since \$1 US dollar can range between \$17 to \$20 pesos in Mexico. Meaning working in the United States can provide you with the opportunity of buying more things in Mexico. We did this (immigrate) so we don't have to be dealing with these type of problems. It's another thing to strive for dreams and opportunities, and not just give into drug abuse.”



BINATIONAL SOCIAL SUPPORT

Knit

“This blanket is a representation of how close-knit Mexican and Mexican American families are. It is a strength because it makes you step back and makes you not want to do drugs because everyone is going to know. Your nana is going to know and then your nana is going to tell your tia. And then everyone is going to know and you’re going to be known as the family disgrace. Close families are ingrained in the culture. Family always comes first.”



ACTION COMPONENT

- **Youth Participatory ACTION Research**
 - Douglas Days Presentation
 - Photo boards with QR codes
 - English
 - Spanish
 - Meeting with the Mayor
 - Policy Recommendations



CONCLUSIONS

- Border youth may experience multiple risk factors for substance use simultaneously
- Examining substance use from a social-ecological lens that includes the influence of drug trafficking, immigration related stress, and disordered neighborhood and economic contexts may better help us understand the experiences of border youth



YPAR: YOUTH AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Cochise County Youth Health Coalition
- Douglas and Agua Prieta
- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Services Award, Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, PA-16-309 , National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institutes of Health
- Program in Migration and Health – California Endowment, UC Berkeley
- Center for the Elimination of Border Health Disparities, Arizona Health Sciences, University of Arizona



Questions from CADCA

1. In your presentation, you mentioned some youth outcomes were increased leadership and research skills. What are some ways coalitions can frame these outcomes to engage youth for future participation?
2. In your article about YPAR on the U.S.-Mexico border, you mentioned the findings illustrate a nexus of factors where risk and protective elements overlap. How might coalitions navigate through this complexity of risk and protective processes for youth?
3. Where can interested coalition members find more information about your work? What other resources can you recommend for coalitions interested in applying YPAR in their own communities to produce community-specific substance use data and prevention materials?

Thank You!

CADCA wishes to thank Dr. Elizabeth Salerno Valdez for her tireless work in providing such valuable and current material.

For help with any evaluation or research related issue, or questions about this webinar, please send an email to evaluation@cadca.org.