

JAKE SAMORA, M.A.
Doctoral Student, School of Social Work
The University of Texas at Austin
jake.samora@austin.utexas.edu

EDUCATION

PhD	Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin Cumulative GPA: 4.00	Anticipated 2027
MA	Psychology, Boston University Cumulative GPA: 4.00	May 2020
BA	Psychology, University of Texas at Austin Highest Honors with Departmental Honors Cumulative GPA: 3.99	May 2019

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

University Graduate Continuing Fellowship University of Texas at Austin	Fall 2025-Summer 2026
Marilyn White Fellowship University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work	Summer 2025
Marylin White Scholarship University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work	Spring 2025
Michael R. Daley Endowed Presidential Scholarship University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work	Fall 2024
Graduate School Summer Fellowship University of Texas at Austin Graduate School	Summer 2024
Megan and Matthew Szabo Research Excellence Award University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work	Spring 2024
Professional Development Award University of Texas at Austin	Fall 2023, 2024

Stephen Joseph Tripodi Endowed Excellence Fund
University of Texas at Austin
School of Social Work

Fall 2023

Distinguished College Scholar (University of Texas)
2019 In-residence GPA of 3.5 with 60 hours of coursework and
Top 4% of class within College of Liberal Arts

Spring 2018,

Liberal Arts Dean's Honor List (University of Texas)

Fall 2016 – Fall 2018

Liberal Arts Dean's List (Texas A&M University)

Spring 2016

4.00 GPA with at least 15 hours

RESEARCH INTERESTS

People Who Use Drugs, Sexual and Gender Minority Populations, People at-risk for HIV/HCV, Harm Reduction, Mixed Methods, Community-Based Participatory Research, Implementation Science

GRANTS

Awarded

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), R36DA066374 May 2026-April 2027
Longitudinal examination of individual, social, and structural syndemics in drug overdose risk among people living with HIV (PLWH)
Goals: 1. Examine trajectories of overdose incidents, risk, and access to overdose prevention services (e.g., naloxone, medications for opioid use disorder) among PLWH; 2. Examine the influence of syndemic risk factors across the levels of the socioecological model on trajectories of overdose incidents, risk, and access to overdose prevention services among PLWH
\$53,018
Role: Principal Investigator (50% FTE)

SHIFTovation, The University of Texas at Austin June 2022-August 2023
TxCOPE Pilot: Overdose Reporting and Prevention among Students at UT Austin
Goals: Increase overdose reporting and education surrounding overdose prevention via TxCOPE.
\$25,000
Role: Co-Principal Investigator (10% FTE)

Submitted (Administratively Withdrawn due to Change in NIH Priorities)

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), F31DA064449
An intersectional approach to assessing the impact of minority stressors on overdose and related outcomes among sexual minority men living with HIV
Goal: Understand trajectories of drug overdose incidence and overdose risk among sexual minority men and intersectional subgroups living with HIV

\$90,504

Role: Principal Investigator (50% FTE)

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Peer Reviewed Publications

14. **Samora, J.**, Lovett, K., McCormick, K., Shah, R., Kulkarni, S., & Claborn, K. (2026). Ready, willing, and able: understanding opioid overdose preparedness among college students in the southwestern United States. *Frontiers in public health*, 14, 1837454. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2026.1837454>
13. Desai, A., Rau, J., **Samora, J.**, McCormick, K. A., Rochani, H., Chang, P., Westphal, R. J., Watson, P. J., Benzer, J. K., Claborn, K. R., & Creech, S. K. (2026). Stress first aid for the harm reduction workforce: pilot test results of an occupational stress intervention. *BMC public health*, 26(1), 1725. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-026-27343-y>
12. Claborn, K., McCormick, K., **Samora, J.**, & Benzer, J. (2026). "Moving at the Speed of Trust": Implementing a Digital Tool to Improve Data-driven Response to the Opioid Crisis. *Proceedings of the 59th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences*. <https://hdl.handle.net/10125/111871>
11. **Samora, J.**, Yespica Mendoza, E. A., Kennedy, P., Bernal, N., Velasquez, A. J., Wittig, M., Claborn, K. R., Schnarrs, P. W., & Russell, S. T. (2026). Risk Factors for Substance Use Among Sexually and Gender Diverse Latine Youth and Young Adults: A Systematic Review. *LGBT health*, 13(2), 73–84. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23258292251406601>
10. Hairgrove, S., Kane, H. L., Cance, J. D., Barnes, A., **Samora, J.**, Conway, F. N., & Claborn, K. (2025). Barriers to nonfatal overdose reporting among nontraditional responders and reporters. *Texas Public Health Journal*, 77(3), 26-31. <https://www.rti.org/publication/barriers-to-nonfatal-overdose-reporting-among-nontraditional-resp>
9. Claborn, K. R., McCormick, K. A., **Samora, J.**, McElrath, J., & Steiker, L. K. H. (2025). Building an integrated care continuum for youth substance use treatment and recovery: a qualitative study. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1533256X.2025.2514124>
8. Long, L. J., **Samora, J.**, Indriolo, T., Huber, E. G., Geng, Y., Ouyang, L., Papini, S., Smits, J. A. J., & Otto, M. W. (2025). Examining the individual and combined influence of

negative affect and nicotine cue provocation on craving to vape nicotine among e-cigarette users. *Addictive behaviors*, 169, 108378.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2025.108378>

7. Conway, F. N., Todaro, S. M., Lesnewich, L. M., de Souza, N. L., Nolen, E., **Samora, J.**, Jeong, H., & Buckman, J. F. (2024). Athletes and aggression: A systematic review of physical and verbal off-field behaviors. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 78, 101977.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2024.101977>
6. McCormick, K. A., **Samora, J.**, Claborn, K. R., Holleran Steiker, L. K., & DiNitto, D. M. (2024). A systematic review of macro-, meso-, and micro-level harm reduction interventions addressing the US opioid overdose epidemic. *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687637.2024.2306826>
5. **Samora, J.**, Jeong, H., Conway, F. N., & Claborn, K. R. (2024). Applications of Immersive Virtual Reality for Illicit Substance Use: A Systematic Review. *Journal of studies on alcohol and drugs*, 85(2), 158–167. <https://doi.org/10.15288/jsad.23-00189>
4. Claborn, K., **Samora, J.**, McCormick, K., Whittfield, Q., Courtois, F., Lozada, K., Sledge, D., Burwell, A., Chavez, S., Bailey, J., Bailey, C., Pederson, C. D., Zagorski, C., Hill, L., Conway, F. N., Steiker, L. H., Cance, J., & Potter, J. (2023). "We do it ourselves": strengths and opportunities for improving the practice of harm reduction. *Harm reduction journal*, 20(1), 70. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-023-00809-7>
3. Conway, F. N., **Samora, J.**, Brinkley, K., Jeong, H., Clinton, N., & Claborn, K. R. (2022). Impact of COVID-19 among people who use drugs: A qualitative study with harm reduction workers and people who use drugs. *Harm reduction journal*, 19(1), 72.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-022-00653-1>
2. Claborn, K., Creech, S., Conway, F. N., Clinton, N. M., Brinkley, K. T., Lippard, E., Ramos, T., **Samora, J.**, Miri, A., & Benzer, J. (2022). Development of a digital platform to improve community response to overdose and prevention among harm reduction organizations. *Harm reduction journal*, 19(1), 62. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-022-00636-2>
1. Gold, A. K., Hoyt, D. L., Milligan, M., Hiserodt, M. L., **Samora, J.**, Leyro, T. M., Zvolensky, M. J., & Otto, M. W. (2021). The role of fear of COVID-19 in motivation to quit smoking and reductions in cigarette smoking: a preliminary investigation of at-risk cigarette smokers. *Cognitive behaviour therapy*, 50(4), 295–304.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/16506073.2021.1877340>

Under Review

4. Avanceña, A., **Samora, J.**, Goel, A., Choi, J., Norwood, A., Schnarrs, P., Claborn, K. (Under Review). Substance use and substance use disorders among individuals with and without HIV, 2015-2024. *Clinical Infectious Disease*.
3. Rau J., **Samora J.**, Desai A., McCormick K.A., Westphal R.J., Watson P.J., Claborn K.R., Creech S.K., Benzer J.K. (Under Review). Adapting Stress First Aid for the Harm Reduction Workforce: Implementation Successes, Challenges, and Strategies for Future Implementation and Sustainability. *BMC Public Health*.
2. **Samora, J.**, Desai, A., Rau, J., Claborn, K.R., Benzer, J.K., Westphal, R.J., Watson, P.J., Creech, S.K. (Under Review). Understanding Occupational Stressors and Resilience Strategies Among Harm Reduction Workers and Leaders. *Health and Social Care in the Community*.
1. Claborn, K., Kane, H., Erickson, E., Cance, J., **Samora, J.**, Hamm, C., Harwood, M. (Under Review). "Overdose is what the reporter defines it as": Understanding of drug overdose and reporting practices among EMS personnel. *Journal of Substance Abuse, Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*.

In Preparation

1. **Samora, J.**, Coren, F., Schnarrs, P.W., Fliedner, P., Adams, A., Schweissing, E., Russell, S.T., Claborn, K.R. (In Prep). Cultural Factors in Initiating and Reducing Chemsex Behavior Among Latine Men Who Have Sex With Men.
2. **Samora, J.**, Russell, S.T., Schnarrs, P.W., Claborn, K.R. (In Prep). Applying minority stress theory to understand coping substance use motives among sexual and gender minority youth and adolescents.
3. **Samora, J.**, Maglalang, D., Yoo, N., Russell, S.T., Claborn, K.R. (In Prep). Examining the effect of minority stressors and protective factors on substance use among racially and ethnically diverse sexual minority individuals: A multigroup mediation path analysis.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

12. **Samora, J.** (2026, September 21st). Centering Marginalized Communities: Drug Use and

Overdose Among Sexual and Gender Minority Individuals and People Living With HIV. To be presented at the Opioid Overdose and Opioid Use Disorder Awareness Symposium at UT Austin, Austin, TX, United States

11. **Samora, J.** (2026, March 3rd). The opioid epidemic and overdose crises in the United States: History and recent developments [Invited talk]. Presented at the Mindful Sips series hosted by the Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research at UT Austin, Austin, TX, United States.
10. **Samora J.** (2025, January 23rd). Barriers to Awareness for Overdose Prevention Among College Students. [Invited talk]. Presented at the UT Austin Social Work Office of Associated Dean of Research and Moritz Center for Societal Impact's Spring 2025 Research Showcase, Austin, TX, United States.
9. **Samora, J.** & Bailey, C.T. (2024, October 4th). "Tears, Strength, Change, and Love": Insights from Research and Practice on Occupational Stressors and Resilience-Bolstering Strategies Among Harm Reduction Service Providers. [Invited talk]. Presented at the Be Well, Texas Harm Reduction ECHO, Virtual.
8. Claborn, K.R. & **Samora, J.** (2023, September 15th). The Addiction Research Institute. [Invited talk]. Presented to the School of Social Work Advisory Council, Austin, TX, United States.
7. Lozada, K. & **Samora, J.** (2023, April 27th). Strategies for Reducing Substance-Use Related Stigma: Lessons Learned from Developing and Implementing TxCOPE. [Invited talk]. Presented at The University of Texas at San Antonio's Department of Social Work, San Antonio, TX, United States
6. **Samora J.** (2023, April 5th). Increasing Overdose Prevention Education at UT Austin: The Role of TxCOPE and Overdose Reporting. [Invited talk]. Presented at the University of Texas Opioid Research Consortium, Virtual.
5. **Samora J.** TxCOPE: Texans Connecting Overdose Prevention Efforts. [Invited talk]. Presented at the following:
 - Williamson County Overdose Awareness Event, Round Rock, TX, United States. (2022, August 27th).
 - Prevention Resource Center – Region 6 Lifespan Prevention Epidemiology Workgroup, Virtual. (2022, September 6th)
 - Houston Coalition, Virtual (2022, November 9th)
 - Austin Area Opioid Workgroup, Virtual. (2022, November 16th).
 - Challenge of Tarrant County, Virtual (2023, February 8th).

4. Britt, A. & **Samora J.** (2022, December 6th) TxCOPE: Texans Connecting Overdose Prevention Efforts. [Invited Talk] Presented to Dallas City Council Quality of Life Committee, Virtual.
3. **Samora J.** (2022, August 2nd) TxCOPE: A Digital Solution for Identifying Adulterated Substances and Connecting Overdose Prevention Efforts. [Invited talk] Presented at the Abilene Recovery Council's Collaborating to Combat a Crisis: How Counterfeit Drugs Are Affecting Our Communities, Abilene, TX, United States.
2. Claborn K.R. & **Samora J.** (2022, June 21-24) TxCOPE: Texans Connecting Overdose Prevention Efforts. [Invited talk] Presented at the Texas HHSC Prevention and Behavioral Health Promotion's Annual Prevention Providers' Meeting, Virtual.
1. **Samora, J.**, Brinkley, K., Welch, A., Conway, F.N., Claborn, K.R. (2020, December 7th). The Impact of COVID-19 on Drug Use Patterns Among People Who Use Drugs. [Invited talk]. Presented at the UT COVID-19 Modeling Consortium, Virtual.

Oral Presentations

12. **Samora, J.**, Schnarrs, P. W., Fliedner, P., Coren, F., Allen, A., Wittig, M., Schweissing, E., Ferriby, K., Sames, R., Norwood, A., Townsend, M., Avanceña, A., Claborn, K. (2026, November). Cultural Factors in Initiating and Reducing Chemsex Behavior Among Latine Men Who Have Sex With Men. [Oral presentation]. Accepted to be presented at American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting & Expo, San Antonio, TX, United States.
11. Norwood, A., **Samora, J.**, Fliedner, P., Coren, F., Allen, A., Wittig, M., Schweissing, E., Ferriby, K., Sames, R., Townsend, M., Avanceña, A., Claborn, K., Schnarrs, P. W. (2026, November). Social vulnerability experienced by men who have sex with men with chemsex behavior: Income instability, housing concerns, and barriers to engaging in care. [Oral presentation]. Accepted to be presented at American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting & Expo, San Antonio, TX, United States.
10. Schnarrs, P. W., **Samora, J.**, Fliedner, P., Coren, F., Norwood, A., Townsend, M., Avanceña, A., Sames, R., Allen, A., Schweissing, E., Wittig, M., Ferriby, K., Claborn, K. (2026, November). Shaping the conditions of the problematic chemsex journey: Early life adversity and its links to loneliness and emptiness. [Oral presentation]. Under review to be presented at American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting & Expo, San Antonio, TX, United States

9. **Samora J.**, Rau, J. Desai, A., McCormick, K., Claborn, K.R., Creech, S.K. (2025, November). 'I Want to Fill My Life with Pieces and Parts of the Solution So That I Can Be Part of the Solution': Piloting Stress First Aid for Harm Reduction Workers. [Oral presentation]. Accepted to be presented at the 49th Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction (AMERSA) Annual Conference, Portland, OR, United States.
8. **Samora J.**, Chitti, M., Shah, R., Kulkarni, S., Claborn, K.R. (2025, January). Barriers to Awareness for Overdose Prevention Among College Students: The Role of Stigma and Accessibility of University-Based Resources. [Oral presentation]. Presented at the 29th Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, United States.
7. **Samora J.**, Desai, A., Claborn, K.R., Creech, S.K. (2025, January). Understanding Resilience Strategies and Occupational Stressors Among Harm Reduction Workers. [Oral presentation]. Presented at the 29th Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, United States.
6. McCormick, K., **Samora, J.**, & Claborn, K. (2024, October). Variations in preparedness: A comparative analysis of educational training needs among harm reduction workers. [Oral presentation] Presented at Lisbon Addictions 2024, Lisbon, Portugal.
5. **Samora J.**, McCormick, K.A., Claborn, K.R. (2024, January). "We Do It Ourselves": Strengths and Opportunities for Harm Reduction Practice in Texas. [Oral presentation]. Presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 28th Annual Conference, Washington D.C., United States.
4. McCormick, K.A., **Samora J.**, Claborn, K.R., Holleran Steiker, L.K., DiNitto, D.M. (2024, January). A systematic review of macro-, meso-, & micro-level harm reduction interventions addressing the U.S. opioid overdose epidemic [Oral presentation]. Presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 28th Annual Conference, Washington D.C., United States.
3. Claborn, K.R. & **Samora, J.** (2023, March). What is TxCOPE and How Can It Help Your Organization?. [Conference workshop] Presented at the Texas Substance Use Symposium 2023, San Antonio, TX, United States.
2. Claborn, K.R., Conway F.N., Brinkley, K., Ramos, T., **Samora, J.**, Clinton N., Jeong, H. (2021, August). Addressing the Syndemic Effects of COVID-19 and Illicit Drug Use among People who use Drugs. [Conference symposium] Presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association 2022, Virtual.

1. Brinkley, K., **Samora, J.**, Welch, A., Conway, F.N., Claborn, K.R. (2020, November). The impact of COVID-19 on drug use patterns among people who use drugs. [Conference lightning talk]. Presented at the University of Texas COVID-19 Conference, Virtual.

Poster Presentations

17. **Samora, J.**, Schnarrs, P. W., Fliedner, P., Coren, F., Russell, S., Claborn, K. (2026, November). Preferences and Needs for Chemsex Harm Reduction Resources Among Men Who Have Sex with Men: A Qualitative Study. [Poster presentation]. Accepted to be presented at the 50th Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction (AMERSA) Annual Conference, Washington, DC, United States.
16. Fliedner, P., **Samora, J.**, Sames, R., Ferriby, K., Allen, A., Schweissing, E., Coren, F., Norwood, A., Townsend, M., Avanceña, A., Claborn, K., Schnarrs, P. W. (2026, November). Treatment Gaps, Sexual Wellbeing, and Social Isolation as Drivers of Chemsex Behavior: Implications for Peer Support Interventions Among Men Who Have Sex with Men. [Oral presentation]. Accepted to be presented at American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting & Expo, San Antonio, TX, United States.
15. **Samora J.**, Claborn, K.R., Russell, S.T. (2025, April). Coping-Related Substance Use Motives and the Role Of Stressors and Support For Sexual Minority Youth. [Poster presentation]. Presented at the Collaborative Perspectives on Addiction Conference. Kansas City, MO, United States.
14. Desai, A., Rau, J McCormick, KA., **Samora, J.**, Roshani, H., Chang, P., Westphal, R., Watson, P., Benzer, JK., Claborn, K., Creech, SK. (2025, December). "Co-adapting and pilot testing Stress First Aid for the harm reduction workforce: "[Stress First Aid] goes hand in hand with what we do.". [Poster presentation]. Presented at the 18th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health, Washington DC.
13. **Samora J.**, Coren, F., Claborn, K.R., Russell, S.T., Schnarrs, P.W. (2025, June). Chemsex Behavior Among Latino Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM): The Role of Family, Spirituality, and Stigma. [E-poster presentation]. Presented at the International Association for Providers in AIDS Care (IAPAC) Continuum 2025 Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico, United States.
12. Yespica Mendoza, A.E. & **Samora J.** (2024, October). Risk factors for substance use among LGBTQ+ Latinx youth and adults: A scoping review. [Poster presentation]. Presented at

the Annual Providers Meeting for the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).
Kansas City, MO, United States.

11. Courtois, F., Chambers, C., **Samora, J.**, Claborn K.R. (2024, October). Developing an International Collaborative Framework to Support Full Integration for Harm Reduction Services Along the Continuum of Care for Overdose Response. [Poster presentation]. Presented at the International Association for Providers in Aids Care (IAPAC) Fast Track Cities Annual Conference. Paris, France.
10. **Samora J.**, McCormick, K.A., Benzer, J., Creech, S., Claborn, K.R. (2024, October). Pilot implementation of a drug overdose reporting tool among Texas harm reduction organizations: A mixed methods study. [Poster presentation]. Presented at the 2024 Lisbon Addictions Conference, Lisbon, Portugal.
9. **Samora J.**, McCormick, K.A., Benzer, J., Creech, S., Claborn, K.R. (2024, June). Pilot Implementation of a Drug Overdose Reporting Tool Among Texas Harm Reduction Organizations. [Poster presentation]. Presented at the 86th College on Problems of Drug Dependence Annual Scientific Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
8. Jeong, J., Conway, F.N., **Samora, J.**, Clinton, N. & Claborn, K.R. (2023, October). Impact of COVID -19 among people who use drugs: Substance use course development implications. [Poster presentation]. Presented at Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA, United States.
7. **Samora J.**, Shah, R., Kulkarni, S., Chitti, M., Courtois, F., Claborn, K.R. (2023, March). Disseminating TxCOPE among college students at The University of Texas at Austin: A pilot study. [Poster presentation]. Presented at the Texas Substance Use Symposium 2023, San Antonio, TX, United States.
6. **Samora, J.**, Ogle, K., Shifflet, S., Welch, A., Ma, S., Claborn, K.R. (2022, November). Responding to the Overdose Crisis with Emergency Medicine: Perspectives On People Who Use Drugs During COVID and How Paramedics are Weathering the Storm. [Poster presentation]. Presented at the Fifty-sixth annual convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, New York City, NY, United States.
5. **Samora, J.**, Whittfield, Q., Claborn, K.R., Ramos, T., Brinkley, K., Welch, A., Jhaveri, A., Shifflet, S., Ogle, K. (2022, March). Implementation and Iterative Development of a Digital Platform to Improve Prevention and Community Response to Overdose: A Pilot Study. [Poster presentation]. Presented at the Texas Substance Use Symposium 2022, Corpus Christi, TX, United States.

4. **Samora, J.**, Shah, R., Patel, S., Welch A., Claborn, K. R. (2022, March). Perspectives from Emergency Medical Service First Responders on Barriers and Solutions to Calling 911 for Drug Overdose. [Poster presentation]. Presented at the 20th Annual St. David's Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research in Underserved Populations Conference, Austin, TX, United States.
3. **Samora, J.**, Ramos, T., Jhaveri, A., Claborn, K.R. (2021, November). Development of an Adherence Intervention among People With HIV Who Use Drugs: A Qualitative Study [Poster presentation]. Presented at the Fifty-fifth annual convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Virtual.
2. Claborn, K.R., Ramos, T., Brinkley, K., Welch, A., Jhaveri, A., **Samora, J.**, Clinton, N. (2021, April). Development of a State-of-the-Art Response to Overdose Reporting in Texas: Phase 1. [Poster presentation]. Presented at the Texas Substance Use Symposium 2021, Virtual.
1. **Samora, J.**, Indriolio, T., Lubin, R. E., Hoyt, D. L., Milligan, M. A., Papini, S., Smits, J. A. J., Otto, M. W. (2020, November). Assessing Distal Cues for Nicotine Use: Virtual Reality Devices in Cue Reactivity for Smokers and Vapers [Poster presentation]. Presented at the Fifty-fourth annual convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Virtual.

SUBSTANCE USE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Directed Study

January 2020-May 2020

Boston University, Boston, MA

Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

Supervisor: Michael Otto, *Ph.D.*

- Examining the role of mood induction and in-vivo vs. virtual reality cues on craving to consume nicotine in a sample of smokers and vapers
- Drafted and submitted relevant IRB protocols and amendments
- Conducted phone screens to assess inclusion criteria
- Managed the recruitment of participants from the community and on SONA
- Creating and managing data related documents and procedures, including constructing SPSS data files and scoring syntax

Graduate Research Assistant

August 2019-May 2020

Boston University, Boston, MA

Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

Supervisor: Michael Otto, *Ph.D.*

- Learned relevant procedures and ran participants for three separate studies
- Conducted phone screens to assess inclusion criteria for projects (including individuals with Bipolar diagnoses)
- Obtained further experience researching in a clinic setting (Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders)
- Obtained extensive experience with relevant applications, like SPSS and Qualtrics
- Aided in the construction of IRB protocols from grant proposals

Research Associate

August 2020-August 2023

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Addiction Research Institute

Supervisor: Kasey Claborn, Ph.D.

- Role: Research Associate (70% effort)
Development of a Digital Ecosystem to Improve Opioid Overdose Reporting, Tracking, and Prevention across Texas
Texas Health & Human Services

Grant: HHS 000508300003 | PI: Claborn | Funding: \$9,024,172
2019–2024

Goals: The goal of this project is to develop a technology-based platform to improve overdose surveillance and access to treatment for opioid use disorders across three urban and two rural communities in Texas. The aim is to utilize findings from qualitative interviews and surveys to develop a digital platform to improve opioid overdose reporting and prevention.

- Extensive experience in qualitative research methods including interviewing, coding, and applied thematic analysis
 - Observational research with diverse populations, including EMS paramedics and harm reduction workers
 - Community-based liaison and technology transfer specialist for statewide dissemination and implementation of TxCOPE
 - Conducted ecological momentary assessments and clinical interviews for a sub-study investigating the effects of COVID-19 on people who use illicit drugs in Texas
 - Supervised undergraduate research assistants study examining opioid overdose response preparedness on UT Austin's campus

- Role: Study Clinician (30% effort)
Adherence Intervention for HIV-infected Drug Users
Grant: NIDA, K23DA039037 | PI: Claborn | Funding: \$892,437
2015–2022

Goals: The goal of this career development award is to tailor an antiretroviral adherence intervention for HIV-Infected PWUD

- Delivered intervention based on motivational interviewing and cognitive

behavioral therapy to people living with HIV who use illicit drugs to (1) improve antiretroviral therapy adherence and (2) decrease illicit substance use

Graduate Research Assistant

August 2023-Present

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

School of Social Work

Supervisor: Kasey Claborn, *Ph.D.*

- Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analysis
- Supervisory role over undergraduate research assistants
- Manuscript, conferences, and grant submission preparation

Graduate Research Assistant

November 2023-December 2024

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Dell Medical School, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Supervisor: Suzannah Creech, *Ph.D.*

- Co-adapt, co-design delivery of, and pilot test Stress First Aid (SFA) to the needs of Harm Reduction Workers (HRWs) serving Persons Who Use Drugs (PWUD)
- Recruitment of leadership and staff from diverse organizations providing substance use and harm reduction services via outreach

Research Associate III

June 2024-June 2025

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Dell Medical School, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Supervisor: Suzannah Creech, *Ph.D.*

- Co-adapt, co-design delivery of, and pilot test Stress First Aid (SFA) to the needs of Harm Reduction Workers (HRWs) serving Persons Who Use Drugs (PWUD)
- Qualitative data analysis, manuscript and conference submission preparation, recruitment, and outreach to harm reduction workers and adjacent organizations/agencies

SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITY AND POPULATIONS AT-RISK FOR HIV RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Mentee

June 2024-Present

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

School of Public Health

Supervisor: Phillip W. Schnarrs, *Ph.D.*

- Examining chemsex among gay and bisexual men who have sex with men to understand developmental factors related to chemsex initiations, benefits and challenges associated with continuing chemsex, and preferences for interventions related to chemsex
- Survey data management, literature searching, undergraduate research assistant mentorship, coordinator of formal qualitative thematic analyses, conference

dissemination, manuscript preparation

Graduate Research Mentee

August 2024-Present

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics

Supervisor: Stephen T. Russell, *Ph.D.*

- Secondly examining population-representative dataset of coping-related substance use motives and the influence of minority stress processes among sexual minority youth and adolescents
- Literature searching, undergraduate research assistant mentorship, data analysis, conference dissemination, manuscript preparation

TEACHING INTERESTS

Society and Drugs, Research Methods, Ecological Models, Social Justice, Culture and Identity, Qualitative Methodology, Quantitative Methodology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistantships

The University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work

The Science of Hope: An Exploration of Post-Traumatic growth

Spring 2025

- Course Description: Drawing from interdisciplinary perspectives, we will examine how individuals navigate through life's challenges and adversities, and how they find meaning and happiness amidst struggle. Topics will include resilience-building practices, strategies for fostering hope in difficult times, and the process of embracing growth and transformation after trauma.

Guest Lectures

The University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work

Colloquium On Issues In Social Work Education And Research

Spring 2026

- Course Description: This course introduces social work doctoral students to topics that facilitate the transition to doctoral education including identity development, professional development, and doctoral program requirements and expectations. Certain topics are covered every year, but some class sessions are reserved for topics of particular interest to each new doctoral cohort. The course relies on readings, structured reflection exercises, and discussion to help students learn course concepts and apply them to their educational and research training experiences.
- Lecture Topic: Choosing Your Electives

Social Welfare Programs, Policies, and Issues

Fall 2024

- Course Description: Analyze contemporary social welfare policy issues and programs and discuss the relationship between social policy and social work practice. Explore the historical, political, economic, and social conditions that influence policy

development in the United States. Use policy analysis tools to examine how policy influences practice and planning decisions and how social workers can influence social welfare policy.	
Lecture Topic: Presenting and Defending Policy Proposals: Applying Principles to Harm Reduction Advocacy	
Social Work Statistics	Fall 2024
- Course Description: Introduction to the conceptual and quantitative tools used to describe and interpret data in the conduct of social work practice and research. Select, calculate, and interpret appropriate statistics applicable to common data analysis situations related to direct practice, administration and planning, and policy. Explore R statistical software to calculate statistics and present results. - Lecture Topic: Crosstabulation and Bivariate Analysis	
Guest Lectures	The University of Texas at Austin, School for Undergraduate Studies
Society & Drugs	Fall 2024, Fall 2025
- Course Description: An interdisciplinary examination of comprehensive aspects of society, substance use, misuse, disorders, and recovery. This experiential course explores substance use's impact on individuals, families, communities, and society. The course addresses cultural aspects of mood and mind-altering substances in relation to individuals of diverse population groups, particularly those at high risk. - Lecture Topic: Culture, Identities, and Intersectionality in the Context of Addiction	
Young People and Drugs	Fall 2020, Fall 2022, Fall 2023
- Course Description: Address physiological, psycho-social, and cultural aspects of psychoactive substances in relation to adolescents, adolescent assessment, and special characteristics of adolescents in diverse population groups, particularly those at high risk - Lecture Topics: Technology and Substance Use (2020), Harm Reduction (2022), Drugs and Alcohol Research (2023)	
Guest Lectures	The University of Texas at Austin, School of Health and Human Sciences
Health Equity in Diverse Communities	Fall 2023
- Course Description: Recent developments and research methods in the field of public health are explored. - Lecture Topic: Harm Reduction	
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS	
American Public Health Association Member	July 2025-Present
College on Problems of Drug Dependence	April 2024-Present
Jake Samora - 15	

Member-in-Training

Society for Social Work and Research
Member

October 2023-October 2025

Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha of Texas
University of Texas at Austin

March 2019

Psi Chi, International Honors Society for Psychology
University of Texas at Austin

September 2018

Tau Sigma National Honors Society
Honors Society for University Transfer Students
University of Texas at Austin

April 2018

SERVICE ACTIVITY

Extramural Service

Volunteer

June 2024-Present

The N.I.C.E. Project

- Assisted with street outreach and harm reduction education for people who use drugs

Counselor

May 2018

Muscular Dystrophy Association of America Summer Camp

- Assisted campers with muscular dystrophy in everyday activities (hygiene and eating) as well as provided guidance throughout camp activities.

Academia Service

Ad Hoc Reviewer

- PLOS One (June 2019)
- Community Mental Health Journal (September 2023, January 2024, August 2024)
- INQUIRY (January 2025)
- Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy (April 2025)
- Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (June 2026)

Global Engagement Committee Member

- The University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work (Spring 2026, Fall 2026)