

2022 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies

Collective Action: Addressing Gaps in Substance Use, Overdoses, and Recovery

Wendy Hetherington, MPH, Chief Epidemiologist & Branch Chief

Wendy Hetherington, MPH is the Chief Epidemiologist for the County of Riverside Department of Public Health and is responsible for leading the Epidemiology and Program Evaluation Branch, which includes the Health Equity Program and the Riverside Overdose Data to Action Program. She manages a team of epidemiologists and research specialists who analyze data, prepare reports and presentations, use statistics and GIS to guide program and policy development and a team of program coordinators and health education assistants who use the data to collaborate with community partners to advance health equity. She also manages the Office of Vital Records whose team is responsible for registering all births and deaths that occur in Riverside County.

Aaron Gardner, MPH, MA, Epidemiologist

Aaron Gardner is an epidemiologist with over 20 years of social science and epidemiological research experience, including 16 years investigating infectious and chronic diseases in Riverside County with the Riverside University Health System - Public Health. He completed his Master of Arts in Anthropology from the University of California, Riverside, and his MPH in Biostatistics and Epidemiology from the University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine. Aaron has extensive experience in qualitative and quantitative data collection, analysis, and communication, with a particular focus on health equity and social justice issues.

Andrew Jimenez, MPH, CHES, Program Coordinator

Andrew Jimenez is a Program Coordinator I for the Riverside Overdose Data to Action (RODA) Program, housed within Riverside University Health System - Public Health. He is responsible for the development and implementation of RODA's Strategic Plan and ensuring activities align with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)/California Opioid Safety Network's strategies. He also coordinates the Overdose Fatality Review Team meetings to inform overdose prevention efforts.

In addition, he supports the Inland Empire Opioid Crisis Coalition (IEOCC) with the implementation of their work plan. Andrew has over eight years of Public Health experience working on a variety of prevention programs and initiatives. Andrew is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES®) and has a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in Health Promotion, Education, and Evaluation from Claremont Graduate University, underserved demographics while helping structural entities enhance their business practices and decision-making processes through a DEI lens.