

Puerto Rico Racial and Ethnic Acceleration Consortium for Health Equity (PR-REACH)

Investigators

- Darlene Santiago, PhD, MSc - University of Puerto Rico
- Karen Martinez, MD, MSc - University of Puerto Rico

Project Summary

The PR-REACH aims to support the amplification of Puerto Ricans' voices regarding perspectives, preferences, and unmet needs, by creating spaces that seek knowledge of individuals from this underrepresented community. Through this project, the researchers hope to:

- 1) employ innovative strategies, training, education, and communication methods to understand Puerto Rican individuals' preferences, experiences and unmet needs regarding FDA-approved treatments and medications,
- 2) leverage big data, machine learning, and artificial intelligence data analysis and local health data sources in Puerto Rico to be able to evaluate the safety and efficacy of FDA-approved products (therapeutics, diagnostics, and vaccines) and products subject to EUAs/EUA expansion, and
- 3) identify barriers to clinical trial enrollment for Puerto Ricans and develop innovative strategies to address such barriers. The PR-REACH will focus on Hispanic or Latino people living in Puerto Rico as a model that can inform and guide subsequent extrapolation to other Hispanic or Latino communities living in the U.S. mainland.

Populations Served: Hispanic or Latino

Goals/Aims:

- Create a substance use disorder patients' journey map of treatment experiences in Puerto Rico starting with access to medications ending with outcomes and recovery.
- Facilitate and increase the understanding of Hispanic or Latino patient perspectives, preferences, and unmet needs of FDA-approved medications/treatments.

Publications/Abstracts/Posters, etc.

- **Addressing Health Disparities and Advancing Health Equity through Translational Science and Research: Vignettes from Across the United States** (oral presentation), Association for Clinical and Translational Science Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, April 2024.