

TANYA J. BENITEZ
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Education

University of Alabama at Birmingham August 2009- Present
PhD Student. School of Public Health: Health Behavior

State University of New York at Stony Brook: July 2003
Master of Social Work (MSW)

University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH: May 2000
Bachelor of Science: Child and Family Studies

Licensure

New York State Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW)

Languages

Fully bilingual English/Spanish

Research Support

UAB Project Director June 2012-Present
Using Interactive Internet Technology to Promote Physical Activity in Latinas
Pilot study of a culturally adapted interactive web-based physical activity promotion intervention for Latinas in Alabama.

UAB Graduate Research Assistant August 2010-Present
Project pHree, Douching Cessation with Biological Endpoints
National Institute of Health (NIH) funded R01 study to understand how douching practices affect young women's reproductive health.

UAB Graduate Research Assistant April 2011-August 2011
Jefferson County Department of Health award from the CDC's Communities Putting Prevention to Work. Translation of forms and materials (for IRB) for the Spanish-language radio drama *Promesas y Traiciones*. Data collection at community events and health fairs for Latinos.

Work Experience

Suffolk County Department of Health Services
Medical Social Worker-HIV/AIDS Case Manager. Amityville, NY. May 2007-July 2009
Managed a caseload of 60 low-income HIV positive English and Spanish speaking individuals at an ethnically and racially diverse health clinic in the New York metropolitan area. Provided health education and counseling; coordinated multidisciplinary case conferences; provided HIV/AIDS testing and counseling to adolescent and adult community members.

Suffolk County Department of Health Services
Medical Social Worker. East Hampton and Southampton, NY. December 2003-June 2006
Worked with a disadvantaged migrant Hispanic population. Provided health education to individuals and groups in the community; counseling and crisis intervention to individuals for mental health issues, substance abuse, violence, and related health issues; HIV testing and counseling.

Pederson Krag Partial Hospital

Social Work Intern. Huntington, NY. September 2002-May 2003

Conducted psychosocial assessments of adults with severe and persistent mental illness; provided group and individual counseling; crisis intervention; assessment of suicidality risk and emergency planning; and alcohol and substance abuse counseling. Participated in multidisciplinary team meetings.

Boston Children's Hospital

Intern in Child Life Services. Boston, MA. Summer 1999

Provided therapeutic interventions to patients, and counseling to parents and siblings, on a school-age/adolescent surgical unit. Participated in care plan meetings with interdisciplinary staff.

Publications

Larsen, B.A.; Pekmezi, D.; Marquez, B.; **Benitez, T.J.** & Marcus, B.H. (2013). Physical activity in Latinas: Social and environmental influences. *Women's Health*, 9(2), 1-10.

Joseph, R.P., Royse, K.E., **Benitez, T.J.**, & Pekmezi, D.W. (2013). Physical Activity and Quality of life among university students: Exploring self-efficacy, self-esteem, and affect as potential mediators. *Quality of Life Research*, 22(6).

Joseph, R., Durant, N., **Benitez, T.**, & Pekmezi, D. (2013). Internet-based physical activity interventions. *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*.

Submitted Publications

Joseph, R.P., Daniel, C.L., Thind, H., **Benitez, T.J.**, Pekmezi, D.W. Application of behavioral theory to promote maintenance of healthy lifestyles. Submitted to *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*.

Professional Presentations

Benitez, T., Cherrington, A., Davies, S., Robinson, C., Joseph, R., Pekmezi, D. (March 2014). Muévete Alabama: A culturally adapted Web-based intervention to promote physical activity in Latina adults. Poster presentation at UAB 9th Annual Health Disparities Research Symposium.

Benitez, T., Griffin, K., Thind, H. (April, 2012). A theory-based, Internet-delivered reproductive health intervention. Invited guest lecturer in HB 600: Introduction to Health Behavior. UAB School of Public Health, Department of Health Behavior.

Griffin, K., Thind, H., **Benitez, T.**, Simpson, T., Grimley, D., Davies, S. (April 2012). Association and increased risk of dual sexually concurrent partnerships among a population of low SES women in the Southeast. Poster presentation at the 33rd Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine. New Orleans, LA.

Griffin, K., Thind, H., **Benitez, T.**, Simpson, T., Grimley, D., Davies, S. (April 2012). Association of male sexual partner's incarceration status and female partner's history of sexually transmitted infections. Poster presentation at UAB 7th Annual Health Disparities Research Symposium.

Benitez, T., Kohler, C., Pekmezi, D. (April 2012). Feasibility and acceptability of an Internet-based intervention for promoting physical activity among Latinas. Poster presentation at UAB 7th Annual Health Disparities Research Symposium.

Benitez, T., Kohler, C., Pekmezi, D. (April 2012). Feasibility and acceptability of an Internet-based intervention for promoting physical activity among Latinas. Poster presentation at UAB Public Health Research Day. Birmingham, AL.

Davies, S., Lewis, T., Thind, H., Griffin, K., **Benitez T.**, Kilpatrick, C., Simpson, T., Hook, N., Schwebke, J., Grimley, D. (March 2012). An Ecological Approach to Understand Depression in Women. Poster presentation at the 12th Annual American Academy of Health Behavior Meeting. Austin, TX.

Benitez, T., Daniel, C., Geiger, B., & Joseph, R. (2011). Promoting healthy minds and bodies through safer playgrounds: A comprehensive approach using MAP-IT. Presented at American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting November 2011. Washington, D.C.

Joseph, R., **Benitez, T.**, Geiger, B., & Daniel C. (2011). Assessing playground safety: A collaborative community approach. Presented at American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting November 2011. Washington, D.C.

Benitez, T., Hall, M., & Griffin, K. (March, 2011). Project pHree: Douching cessation with biological endpoints and a novel internet-based questionnaire and intervention method. Presented at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Public Health. Birmingham, AL.

Geiger, B., Roy, J., Sims, S., **Benitez, T.**, Daniel, C., Joseph, R. (Nov. 2010). The Responsibility of Physical and Health Educators for Playground and Gymnasium Safety. Presented at Alabama State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (ASAHPERD) Fall Conference. Hoover, AL.

Committees

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Implementation Team. Committee member 2008-2009. Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Office of Minority Health. Purpose: to implement U.S. Department of Health and Human Services CLAS standards at a county-level health department.

Fellowships/ Financial Awards

UAB's National Cancer Institute (NCI)-funded Cancer Prevention and Control Training Program Graduate Assistanceship R25 CA047888. January 2014.

University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Public Health: Health Behavior Training Fellowship August 2009-August 2010, August 2010-2011.

Service

Program Planner/Bilingual Health Educator Aug. 2010-Dec. 2010
Developed playground safety program aimed at reducing childhood playground injuries in collaboration with administrators at Jefferson County Commission for Economic Opportunity (JCCEO). Provided education to Head Start staff and parents on the prevention childhood

playground injuries and instruction on evaluating the safety of community play areas. Adapted and implemented all project materials into Spanish language.

Consultant

Jan. 2011-November 2011

Jefferson County Commission for Economic Opportunity.

Provided consultation with JCCEO administrators to expand implementation of playground safety program to additional Head Start Centers throughout Jefferson County.

Group facilitator

May 2011-October 2012

Facilitator of Spanish-language conversation groups at Hoover Public Library, Hoover, AL.