



Division of Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine Retreat- 2018

My Research Career Spanning 30 Years

Local, National, and International Contributions

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My Program of Research

Reducing health disparities in adolescents and young adults (AYAs) 2 areas of focus:

- Biopsychosocial antecedents and other social determinants of sexual and reproductive health and the role these factors play in STI and HIV acquisition
- Development and evaluation of individual- and group-level cognitive-behavioral skills-building and community-level interventions using culturally competent and resilience-based frameworks to promote sexual health and to reduce STIs/HIV

My Research Includes Many “FIRSTS”

- Adolescent AIDs Program (Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY)
- School-based STD/HIV prevention in SF (possibly the nation) with M. Shafer (e.g., Boyer CB, Shafer MA, Tschann JM. *Adolescence*, 32:25-42, 1997)
- RCT in SF focused STI/HIV prevention in heterosexual STD clinic patients (e.g., Boyer CB et al., *AIDS*, 11:359-367, 1997)
- SF Kaiser Teen Clinic study among first to identify an association between STD diagnosis and frequent marijuana USE (e.g., Boyer CB, Shafer MA, Wibbelsman C, et al; *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, 153:838-844, 1999)

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Military-based Research (1992-2013 continuous funding)

- Developed 1st ship-board military-based RCT to prevent STDs during 6-month deployment using novel materials, including award winning videos developed by our group (Western Pacific) (e.g., Boyer CB, Shafer MA, et al., *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 28(6):349-55, 2001)
- Led the development of and conducted qualitative interviews with HIV-infected Ethiopian military personnel to describe lived experiences upon returning home after civil war (Addis Ababa) (e.g., Bakhireva LN, Abebe Y, Brodine SK, Kraft HS, Shaffer RA, Boyer CB. *Military Medicine*, 169(3):221-6, 2004)

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- Helped to guide the development and implementation of the 1st military intervention among Angolan military personnel while they were still fighting a civil war (Luanda, Angola) (Bing EG, Cheng KG, Ortiz DB, Ovalle-Bahamon RE, Ernesto G, Weiss RE, Boyer CB. *AIDS and Behavior*, 12:384–395, 2008)
- Conducted 1st RCT to prevent STIs/UIPs in women Marine Corps recruits (Parris Island, SC, Camp Lejeune, NC, Camp Pendleton, CA, Okinawa, Japan) (e.g., Boyer CB, Shafer MA, et al., *Preventive Medicine*, 40(2005):420-431, 2005)
 - DHHS, Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) identified as an evidence-based intervention to UIPs in adolescents

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Community-based Research in SF

- Helped to lead development, implementation, and evaluation of YUTHE, a peer-led, street-based intervention to promote non-invasive STI screening among at risk youth residing Bayview-Hunters Point and Western Addition, 2 high STI prevalent neighborhoods in SF (e.g., Boyer CB, Sieverding J, et al., *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 40:499-505, 2007)

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Adolescent Trials Network for HIV Prevention (ATN), a research network consortium funded by NICHD, NIMH, NIDA (2006-2017 continuous funding)

- Lead investigations or collaborated on many community mobilization studies to examine social determinants and structural barriers to improve linkage, engagement and retention in healthcare for HIV-infected AYAs and prevention services for HIV uninfected AYAs (9-11 US cities and PR) (e.g., Boyer CB, et al., *Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services*, 2016;15(2):158-179)

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- Another area of research within the ATN focused on improving strategies for reaching at risk AYAs for HIV screening and prevention services (social networks among AA and Latina HIV -/+ and unknown status; social networks in Latinx AYAs) (e.g., Boyer, CB et al, *JAMA Pediatrics*, 167(3):289-96, 2013)

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Returning to my SF Roots

- Over the last 3 years I have conducted research on behalf of SFDPH
- A qualitative study to examine social determinants of the recent surge of STIs in African American young women
 - Interviews with youth providers, focus groups with young women, young men, and parents revealing a number of factors that increase STI risk (e.g., LARCs and low/no use of condoms)

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- A 2nd SFDPH qualitative study examined low/no uptake of PrEP among African American and Latino young men
 - Interviews with youth providers, PrEP educators and navigators, young men and transgender women revealed barriers such as perceived racism and stigma, concerns about side effects, prohibitive cost, etc.

Research Contributions

- Contributed to scientific standards for STI/HIV intervention implementation and development
- Changed policies in the military reproductive healthcare practices for women
- Provided new standards for STI screening and prevention education among military personnel and AYAs
- YUTHE outreach program remains to promote sexual health and STI screening among AYAs in low resource SF communities
- ATN's community mobilization across the US has improved healthcare for AYAs along the HIV care continuum