

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: Benjamin Neil Vickers

PRESENT POSITION AND ADDRESS: Biostatistician, Academic Health Department |
College of Population Health, The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center,
2400 Tucker Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. (April/2021)	University of Texas Medical Branch	Population Health Sciences
M.S. (May/2011)	Texas State University-San Marcos	Applied Sociology
B.A. (August/2006)	Texas Tech University	Engineering (minor: Math)

PROFESSIONAL WORK HISTORY AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Entity</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Biostatistician	Univ.of New Mexico Health Sci	July/2022 - present
Injury Epidemiologist-Adv	New Mexico Dept of Health	January/2022 – July/2022
Assistant Professor	New Mexico Highlands Univ.	August/2019 – January/2022
Teaching/Research Assistant	Univ. of Texas Medical Branch	August/2017 – August/2018
Pre-doctoral Fellow	Sealy Center on Aging, UTMB	September/2014 – August/2017
Secondary Math Teacher	Brady ISD	August/2011 – May/2013
Lecturer	Texas State University	January/2011 – May/2011
Graduate Assistant	Texas State University	August/2010 – December/2010
Teaching Assistant	Texas State University	August/2009 – May/2010
Graduate Assistant	Texas State University	August/2008 – May/2009
Secondary Math Teacher	Frenship ISD	August/2007 – May/2008
Secondary Math Teacher	Seagraves ISD	August/2006 – May/2007

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

Areas of Research: Social epidemiology, clinical epidemiology, health services, gerontology, minority aging and caregiving, religion/spirituality and health. For statistical analysis, I used SAS in my Ph.D. training, and I used SPSS in my M.S. training.

Current Research Activities: I am working with one of my undergraduate Health majors at New Mexico Highlands on a cross-sectional comparison of pediatric leukemia patients with other pediatric cancer patients in the U.S. to identify a risk profile specifically for pediatric leukemia using geo-spatial variables. Aside from the risk profile, the study may be useful for identifying ecological risk areas in the U.S. I have studies from my graduate research that I am planning to push toward publication in the coming months on (1) depressive symptoms in caregivers of Mexican Americans in the Southwestern U.S. age 65 years and older, (2) cognitive function trajectories in Mexican Americans in the Southwestern U.S. age 65 years and older associated with body composition measures, (3) survival post-myocardial infarction in Mexican Americans in the Southwestern U.S. age 65 years and older, and (4) religiosity-spirituality as a buffer against the detrimental impacts of depression on glycemia in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus patients over 50 years of

age in the U.S. My current research activities at the New Mexico Department of Health include periodic reporting on surveillance data for suicides, child fatalities, and falls-related injuries and deaths in New Mexico and the U.S. I also help prepare grants to support health promotion programs that address these outcomes, especially with regard to the use of epidemiological and surveillance data requirements for program evaluation.

Dissertation: As a requirement for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Population Health Sciences, I conducted mixed methods research for my dissertation titled, “Religio-Spiritual Distress Buffering and Diabetes-related Outcomes: A Mixed Methods Study of Older US Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.” Final oral defense: December 17, 2020.

Research Assistant duties (Fall 2016-Summer 2018): I assisted Dr. Susan Weller, PhD, 20 hours a week performing data analysis and manuscript development on two projects. The first was an extensive analysis of 28 qualitative interview projects to identify trends on data saturation and item response salience using SAS. The manuscript has been published on the PLOS ONE peer-reviewed journal (see below). I also have worked on data analysis and manuscript development on a project that has tested, using the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) data, hypotheses based on qualitative data concerning the association of various health-related behaviors and hemoglobin A1c in Type 2 diabetes patients. This project manuscript is in its final stages.

Research Rotation (Summer 2016): I worked with Dr. Kyriakos Markides to develop research and a manuscript for publication on Mexican American aging and health using data from the Hispanic Established Population for the Epidemiological Study of the Elderly study, for which Dr. Markides is the Principal Investigator. I submitted one manuscript on cognitive decline to a journal and began working on a manuscript for a project on caregiver depression.

Research Rotation (Summer 2015): I began preliminary work on my prospective dissertation by drafting a preliminary proposal, improving my initial semi-structured interview guide through training interviews with type 2 diabetics, and drafting a human subjects research protocol to later be submitted to and approved by the UTMB Institutional Review Board.

Research Rotation (Summer 2014): I worked with Dr. Soham Al Snih on a clinical epidemiology research project concerning the longitudinal prediction of cognitive function in elderly Mexican Americans using baseline waist circumference and BMI. The data for the study were the first seven waves of the Hispanic Established Population for the Epidemiological Study of the Elderly (H-EPESE) longitudinal cohort study (P.I.: Kyriakos Markides – UTMB).

Research Assistant duties (Fall 2013-Summer 2016): I assisted Dr. Karl Eschbach (2013/14) with various tasks in cleaning and verifying mortality data for the H-EPESE longitudinal cohort study. In my second year (2014/15), I attended planning and collaboration meetings and trips with Dr. Kyriakos Markides to establish new research ideas and to plan for the 9th wave of data collection to begin in late 2015. I also worked

with some members of the H-EPESE research group to conduct two research projects that I presented at the 2015 Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America. In 2015-2016, I worked with members of the H-EPESE work group on various projects related to cognitive health, religion and health, and mental caregiver distress related to aging in Hispanic populations in the southwestern U.S.

Practicum: As a requirement of the Master of Science in Applied Sociology degree at Texas State University, I successfully defended my practicum in March 2011 titled “Applied Sociology in Pediatric Care: Evaluation of Two Integrated Behavioral Health Programs.”

Consultancy: I performed occasional part-time research consultant work involving statistical analysis, interviewing, qualitative analysis, report writing and editing, and making presentations to clients like the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department and The Texas Department of State Health Services from May 2009 to July 2011 with Morningside Research and Consulting in Austin, Texas.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. I served on the Library Committee at New Mexico Highlands University, representing the Exercise and Sport Sciences Department.

SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. Faculty Sponsor/Advisor for Exercise and Sport Sciences Club

TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

A. TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AT NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIV.:

a. Courses Taught:

HLED 3210 – Foundations of Community Health
HLED 3520 – Health and Sex Education
HLED 4150/5150 – Health, Culture, and Diversity
HLED 4020 – U.S.-Mexico Border Health Issues
HLED 4210/5210 – Epidemiology
HLED 4890 – Fitness/Wellness Program Leadership
EXSC 6200 – Research Methods in Human Performance, Leisure, & Sport

b. Collaborative Substitute Teaching:

HPS 3760/3210 – Exercise Physiology

B. TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH:

a. Teaching Assistant:

Population Health Sciences 6330 – Introduction to Epidemiology

C. TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AT TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

a. Courses Taught:

Sociology 3318 – Applied Data Analysis

Sociology 4308 – Quantitative Research Methods

MEMBERSHIP IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES/PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

American Sociological Association (formerly: 2008-2010)

HONORS:

Awarded membership in Alpha Kappa Delta – International Sociology Honor Society

Recipient of the Laura Ray Scholarship – November 2014

Three-time recipient of the Arthur V. Simmang Scholarship Fund – November 2014,
November 2015, November 2017

Recipient of the Sealy Center on Aging Scholarship – December, 2016

PUBLISHED:

A. ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS:

Weller, S. C. & Vickers, B. N. (2021). Identifying Sustainable Lifestyle Strategies for Maintaining Good Glycemic Control: A Validation of Qualitative Findings. *BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care*, 9(1), e002103.

Weller, S. C., Vickers, B., Bernard, H. R., Blackburn, A. M., Borgatti, S., Gravlee, C. C., & Johnson, J. C. (2018). Open-ended Interview Questions and Saturation. *PLOS ONE*, 13(6), e0198606.

Ashmore, Z., Vickers, B., La Fontaine, J., Shibuya, N., & Jupiter, D. C. (2018). Patient Impressions of Possible Catastrophic Outcomes after Diabetic Foot Ulceration. *Current Diabetes Reviews*, 13(4), 376-388.

Downer, B., Vickers, B. N., Al Snih, S., Raji, M., & Markides, K. S. (2016). Effects of Comorbid Depression and Diabetes Mellitus on Cognitive Decline in Older Mexican Americans. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 64(1), 109-117.

B. OTHER:

Practicum (in lieu of Thesis): “Applied Sociology in Pediatric Care: Evaluation of Two Integrated Behavioral Health Programs.” (Successfully defended March 2011, Texas State University-San Marcos)

C. ABSTRACTS: N/A

PAPERS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS PRESENTED:

A. POSTER PRESENTATIONS:

6th Annual Conference on Medicine and Religion (March 2017): Presented poster titled, “Assessing the Importance of Spirituality in Diabetes Self-Management and Life Impact: A Comparative Ethnic Study of Type 2 Diabetes Patients.”

2016 Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting (November 2016): Presented poster titled, “Religious Service Attendance as a Predictor of 6-year Survival in Older Mexican Americans with First-Incident Acute Myocardial Infarction.”

2016 International Conference on Aging in the Americas (September 2016): Presented Poster titled, “Anthropometric Measures and Cognitive Decline in Older Mexican Americans.” I won second place in the poster session.

UTMB Public Health Symposium (April 2016): Presented poster titled, “Religious Service Attendance as a Predictor of 6-year Survival in Older Mexican Americans with First-Incident Acute Myocardial Infarction.” I won a monetary award for this presentation.

5th Annual Conference on Medicine and Religion (March 2016): Presented poster titled, “Religious Service Attendance as a Predictor of 6-year Survival in Older Mexican Americans with First-Incident Acute Myocardial Infarction.”

2015 Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting (November 2015): Presented Poster titled, “Anthropometric Measures and Cognitive Decline in Elderly Mexican Americans.”

19th Annual Forum on Aging at UTMB (October 2015): Presented Poster titled, “Caregiver Income Modification of the Effect of Health Status of Older Adult Mexican Americans on Caregiver Depressive Symptoms.”

18th Annual Forum on Aging at UTMB (November 2014): Presented poster titled, “Anthropometric Measures and Cognitive Decline in Elderly Mexican Americans.”

INVITED LECTURES AT SYMPOSIA AND CONFERENCES:

2015 Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting (November 2015): Symposium Lecture titled, “Caregiver Income Modification of the Effect of Health Status in Older Adult Mexican Americans on Caregiver Depressive Symptoms.”