

Gabriel A. Benavidez, MPH, PhD

Present Title and Affiliation: Assistant Professor - Epidemiology
Rural and Minority Health Research Center
Department of Public Health
Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences
Baylor University

Education

Ph.D. University of South Carolina
August 2023
Major: Epidemiology
Dissertation: Identifying cancer outcome disparities among Medicaid enrollees along the cancer care continuum: A SEER-Medicaid Analysis
Advisor: Jan M. Eberth

M.P.H. Baylor University
May 2019
Major: Community Health Education
Thesis: Peripheral neuropathy and depressive symptomology: examining the association among persons with and without diabetes mellitus
Advisor: Kelly R. Ylitalo

B.S. Montana State University-Northern
May 2017
Major: Health Sciences

Professional Experience / Academic Appointments

2023-Present Assistant Professor (tenure-track) - Department of Public Health, Baylor University
2022-2023: Research Associate/Data Analyst, Rural and Minority Health Research Center, University of South Carolina
2019- 2022: Graduate Research Assistant, Rural and Minority Health Research Center, University of South Carolina
2021-2022: Data Analysis Consultant, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
2018- 2018: Summer Research Intern, Maddison Cooper Community Clinic, Waco, Texas
2017- 2019: Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Public Health, Baylor University

Professional Service

2021-Present Associate Editor – *World Medical Health Policy Journal*
2021-Present Curriculum Committee Member, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of South Carolina
2021-2022: Faculty Search Committee Member, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of South Carolina
2020-2022: Vice President Delta Omega Public Health Honorary Society, University of South Carolina

Carolina
 2020-2022: Co-Chair Department Journal Club, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of South Carolina
 2018-2019: Department Representative for Baylor University Graduate Student Association
 2018: Student Presenter, Board of Advocates Annual Community Impact Meeting, Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences
 2015-2017: Board Member, Hill County DUI Task Force, Havre, Montana
 2015-2017: Student Health Advisory Committee, Montana State University-Northern

Honors & Awards

2023 Doctoral Achievement Award, University of South Carolina
 2023 Breakthrough Graduate Research Scholar, University of South Carolina
 2022 American College of Epidemiology Best Poster (1st Place)
 2021 Delta Omega Public Health Honorary Society Inductee
 2020 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Health Policy Research Scholar Fellowship
 2019 APHA– Public Health Education & Health Promotion Section, Student Abstract Award
 2019 National Institutes of General Medical Sciences T-32 Predoctoral Fellow, Behavioral Biomedical Interface Program
 2019 American Academy of Health Behavior Student Poster Award
 2017-2019 Full scholarship/ Research Assistantship, Baylor University
 2017 Montana State University-Northern Student Excellence Award
 2017 Graduated Magna Cum Laude
 2017 Graduated with Departmental Distinction
 2015 Palmer & Opal Havskjold Memorial Scholarship for Academics

Competitive Funding & Research Support Awarded

2022 Rural Health Research Grant Program Cooperative Agreement.
 Funder: Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)/HHS
 Amount: \$700,000
 Duration: 2022-2023
 Role: Co-investigator (100% time and effort) & PI for 1 of 4 primary projects funded for 2022-2023

2022 Examining Disparities in Cancer Stage and Mortality Among Medicaid Enrollees
 Funder: Office of the Vice President for Research, Support to Promote Advancement of Research and Creativity (SPARC), University of South Carolina
 Amount: \$5,000
 Duration: 2022-2023
 Role: PI

2021 Assessing the Impacts of Healthcare Infrastructure Accessibility and Environmental pollution on COVID-19 Mortality Disparities in the United States
 Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
 Amount: \$34,869
 Duration: 2021-2022
 Role: Co-PI

2020 Health Policy Research Scholar Fellowship
 Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Amount: \$120,000
Duration: 2021-2024
Role: Fellow

Academic Scholarship

Manuscripts In Preparation

1. Probst, J., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Hung, P., Crouch, E., Yell, N. The Availability of Hospice Services in High Density Minority Areas. (Analysis complete. Results are being drafted)
2. Hung, P., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Probst, J., Crouch, E., Nelson, J. The Availability of Safety Net Dental Providers in Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities. (Analysis complete. Results are being drafted)
3. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Probst, J., Self, S., Alberg, A., Eberth, J.M. Disparities in Stage at Diagnosis Among Medicaid Enrollees: A SEER-Medicaid Analysis (Analysis ongoing, part of dissertation)
4. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Probst, J., Self, S., Alberg, A., Eberth, J.M. The effect of Medicaid enrollment on time-to-treatment among cancer patients: A SEER-Medicaid Analysis (Analysis ongoing, part of dissertation)
5. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Probst, J., Self, S., Alberg, A., Eberth, J.M. Time-to-treatment thresholds and cancer survival: A SEER-Medicaid Analysis (Analysis ongoing, part of dissertation)

Manuscripts Under Review

6. Semprini, J., Ali, A., **Benavidez, G.A.**, (2023) Medicaid Expansion and Uninsurance Rates in Historically Redlined Residential Census Tracts. Submitted to *Health Affairs*
7. Hung, P., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Li, Z., Crouch E.L. (2023) Spatial Analysis of Access to Hospital-based Obstetric Services in the US, 2010-2020. Submitted to the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*. Under Review
8. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Hung, P., Zahnd, W.E., Eberth, J.M, (2023). Examining the burden of chronic disease in the United States: community context matters. Submitted to *Health Services Research* (invited for special issue). Under Review
9. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Zgodic, A., Estrada, LV., Levasseur, JL., Maxim, A., (2023). Distance to hospital emergency and intensive care services and COVID-19 mortality: examining the association across U.S. counties. Submitted to *Public Health*. Under Review
10. **Benavidez G.A.**, Zgodic A, Levasseur JL, LV. Estrada. (2023) The Burden of County Chronic Disease and Other Health Indicators on COVID-19 Mortality and the Potential Modifying Role of Race and Ethnicity. Submitted to *Preventing Chronic Disease*. Returned with Revisions. Revisions underway.

Refereed Journal Articles in print or in press

11. Crouch, E., Hung, P., Benavidez, G., Giannouchos, T. and Brown, M.J., 2023. Rural-urban differences in access to care among children and adolescents in the United States. *The Journal of*

Rural Health.

12. Estrada, L. V., Levasseur, J. L., Maxim, A., **Benavidez, G.A.**, & Pollack Porter, K. M. (2022). Structural Racism, Place, and COVID-19: A Narrative Review Describing How We Prepare for an Endemic COVID-19 Future. *Health Equity*, 6(1), 356-366.
13. Vaidya, A. U., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Prentice, J. C., Mohr, D. C., Conlin, P. R., & Griffith, K. N. (2022). A novel dataset of predictors of mortality for older Veterans living with type II diabetes. *Data in Brief*, 41, 108005.
14. Eberth, J. M., Hung, P., **Benavidez, G. A.**, Probst, J. C., Zahnd, W. E., McNatt, M. K., . & Yell, N. (2022). The Problem Of The Color Line: Spatial Access To Hospital Services For Minoritized Racial And Ethnic Groups. *Health Affairs*, 41(2), 237-246.
15. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Mandelbaum, J., & Fisk, C. E. (2021). The complexities of COVID-19 demonstrate the need for more interdisciplinary research training in graduate school. *Public Health Reports*, 136(4), 391-393.
16. **Benavidez, G. A.**, Zgodic, A., Zahnd, W.E., & Eberth, J. M. (2021). Disparities in Meeting USPSTF Breast, Cervical, and Colorectal Cancer Screening Guidelines Among Women in the United States. *Preventing chronic disease*, 18.
17. Zahnd, W.E., Murphy, C., Knoll, M., **Benavidez, G. A.**, Day, K. R., Ranganathan, R.. & Eberth, J. M. (2021). The intersection of rural residence and minority race/ethnicity in cancer disparities in the United States. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 18(4), 1384.
18. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Ylitalo, K.R., Lanning, B., Asare, M., Meyer, A., & Griggs, J.O. (2020). Peripheral neuropathy and depressive symptoms: examining the association in a primary health care setting among persons with and without diabetes mellitus. *Quality of Life Research*, 29(12), 3297-3304.
19. Ylitalo, K. R., Cox, W., Gutierrez, M., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Umstatt Meyer, M. R., Niceler, B., & Griggs, J. O. (2020). A Prescription for wellness: exercise referrals at a federally qualified health center. *Journal of Primary Care & Community Health*, 11, 2150132720942396.
20. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Asare, M., Lanning, B., Ylitalo, K., Fakhoury, C., Thompson, N., ... & Mamudu, H. M. (2020). Young adults' human papillomavirus-related knowledge: source of medical information matters. *Public Health*, 182, 125-130.
21. Meyer MR, Hamilton CN, Prochnow T, McClendon ME, Arnold KT, Wilkins E, **Benavidez G.A.**, Williams TD, Abildso CG, Porter KM. (2019). Come together, play, be active: physical activity engagement of school-age children at Play Streets in four diverse rural communities in the US. *Preventive medicine*, 129, 105869
22. Abdul-Mumin, A., Anyomih, TTK.,Owusu, SA., Wright, N., Decker, J., Niemeier, K., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Abantanga, FA., Smith ER., Tabiri S. (2019) Burden of Neonatal Surgical Conditions in Northern Ghana. *World journal of surgery*, 44(1), 3-11.
23. Asare, M., Fakhoury, C., Thompson, N., Culakova, E., Kleckner, A. S., Adunlin, G., Reifenshtein, K., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Kamen, C.S (2019). Provider-Patient Relationship: Predictors of African American cancer patients perceived quality of care and health outcomes. *Health Communication* 35(10), 1289-1294..

24. Ylitalo K.R., Camp B.G., Umstatted Meyer M.R., Barron L.A., **Benavidez G.A.**, Hess B, Laschober R, Griggs J.O. (2019). Barriers and Facilitators of Colorectal Cancer Screening in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). *Journal of The American Board of Family Medicine*.
25. **Benavidez, G.A.**, & Hart, PD. (2017). Effects of yoga on measures of health-related quality of life from SF-36 and SF-12 assessments: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Exercise Medicine*.
26. Hart, P. D., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Potter, A., Rech, K., Budak, C. M., Auzenne, C., ... & Miller, L. (2017). A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial to Promote Physical Activity and Change Fitness Scores in Rural College Students: The Northern eHealth/mHealth Trial (N-EMT). *World Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 5(1), 43-48.
27. Hart, P. D., **Benavidez, G. A.**, & Erickson, J. (2017). Meeting recommended levels of physical activity in relation to preventive health behavior and health status among adults. *Journal of Preventive Medicine and Public Health*.

Technical/White Papers/Policy Briefs

- Hung, P., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Merrell, M., **Policy Brief** (2022). Spatial access to hospital-based obstetric units in minoritized racial/ethnic areas. <https://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/publications/1517>
- Zahnd, W.E., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Oyesode, O., Yell, N., Crouch, E., Eberth, J.M., Hung, P., Probst, J., (2022). Availability of Pharmacies in Minoritized Racial/Ethnic Areas. <https://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/publications/1522>
- Probst, J., Yell, N., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Eberth, J.M., Merrell, M., (2022). Availability of Medicare-Certified Hospice Services in Minoritized Racial/Ethnic Group Areas. <https://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/publications/1523>
- Probst, J., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Yell, N., Eberth, J.M., Merrell, M., (2022). Availability of Home Health Services in Minoritized Racial/Ethnic Group Areas. <https://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/publications/1521>
- Eberth, J.M., **Benavidez, G. A.**, Hung, P., Probst, J. C., Zahnd, W. E., Merrell, M., Toussaint, E., Crouch, E. (2022) The Problem Of the Color Line: Story Map. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/racism-and-health/storymap-the-problem-of-the-color-line>
- Merrell, M., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Malbouf, A. (2021) South Carolina: Structural Factors Associated with Poverty <https://www.sistersofcharityhealth.org/media/1jfmbsbw/final-south-carolina-structural-factors-associated-with-poverty-research-brief-november-2020-final.pdf>

Conference Presentations

1. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Probst, J., (May 2023) Disparities in Smoking Cessation Program Education in Rural Areas. Poster Presentation at the National Rural Health Association Annual Meeting
2. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Crouch, E., Hung, P., (May 2023) Changes in Availability of Specialty Cardiac Care Across Rural and Urban Areas between 2010-2020. Poster presentation at the National Rural

Health Association Annual Meeting

3. Day, K.R., **Benavidez, G.A** Wilcox, S. (November 2022) Examining rural/urban, socioeconomic, and racial disparities in US church neighborhood walkability. Accepted for poster presentation at Urban Transitions.
4. Zgodic, A., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Hung, P., Zahnd, W.E., Eberth, J.M., (September 2022) Construction and Validation of a Cancer Burden Index for US Counties. Accepted as an oral presentation at the American College of Epidemiology Annual Meeting.
5. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Eberth, J.M., (May 2022) Chronic disease disparities at the intersection of race and rurality. Poster presentation at the National Rural Health Association Annual Meeting
6. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Zgodic, A, Estrada, L.V., Levasseur J.L., Maxim, A. (June 2022) Using a Multi-level modeling framework to assess county COVID-19 mortality and distance to hospital-based healthcare services. Accepted as a poster presentation at the Society of Epidemiological Research Annual Meeting
7. **Benavidez G.A**, Zgodic (June 2022) Modifying Effect of Rurality in the Association of Distance to Care and COVID-19 Mortality. Accepted as a poster presentation at the Society for Epidemiologic Research Annual Meeting
8. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Estrada, L.V., Levasseur J.L., Maxim, A.. (September 2021). Assessing COVID-19 Morality and Community Social Vulnerability. Accepted as a poster presentation Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Sciences Annual Meeting
9. Estrada, L.V., Levasseur J.L., Maxim, A.. **Benavidez, G.A.**, and Keshia M. Pollack Porter. (September 2021). How Place and Structural Racism Affect Health: A Narrative Review of the Health Services and Systems, Environmental Exposures, and Transportation Literature. Accepted as a poster presentation Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Sciences Annual Meeting
10. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Zgodic, A., Zahnd, W.E., Eberth, J.M. (September 2020) Economic Disparities and Cancer Screening Among Women in The United States: An analysis of 2018 BRFSS Data. Accepted as a poster presentation at the Annual American College of Epidemiology Conference. *Virtual.
11. Zgodic, A., Zahnd, W.E., Miller, D.P Jr., Studts, J.L., **Benavidez, G.A.** (May 2020) Factors Associated with Lung Cancer Screening in Urban vs. Rural Individuals at Risk for Lung Cancer. Accepted as an oral presentation at the Annual Rural Health Conference. San Diego, CA.
12. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Zgodic, A., Zahnd, W.E., Eberth, J.M. (May 2020) Sociodemographic Factors Associated with Mammography in The United States. Accepted as a poster presentation at the Annual Rural Health Conference. San Diego, CA. *Virtual
13. Zgodic A, Zahnd WE, **Benavidez G.A**, Eberth JM. Adjustment of Complex Survey Design Weights for Multilevel Modeling: (November 2020) An Application Using Optional BRFSS Modules on Lung Cancer Screening. Accepted as an Oral Presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Conference, 2020
14. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Zgodic, A., Zahnd, W.E., Eberth, J.M. (April 2020) Disparities in Cervical Cancer Screening in The United States. Accepted as an oral presentation at the 3rd Annual NCI Symposium on Cancer Health Disparities. Bethesda, Maryland.

15. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Zgodic, A., Zahnd, W.E., Eberth, J.M. (April 2020). Persistent Rural-Urban Disparities in Access to Cancer Screening Services: 2010-2018. Accepted as a poster presentation at the 3rd Annual NCI Symposium on Cancer Health Disparities. Bethesda, Maryland.
16. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Zgodic, A., Zahnd, W.E., Eberth, J.M. (March 2020) Demographics of Breast Cancer Screening in South Carolina. Accepted as a poster presentation at the 13th Annual Women's Health Research Forum. Columbia, SC
17. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Ylitalo, K.R, Gutierrez, M., Griggs, J.O., (November 2019) Factors Influencing Patient Attendance Of A Clinic Based Exercise Prescription Program. Accepted as a Poster Presentation at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting
18. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Asare, M., Ylitalo, K., Lanning, B., (November 2-6, 2019) Evaluating the Relationship Between Source of Medical Information and HPV-related Related Knowledge in Young Adults. Accepted for the Student Awards Poster Session at the American Public Health Associations Annual (APHA) Meeting and Expo.
19. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Ylitalo, K., Griggs, J., Cox, W., Gutierrez, M., Fakhoury, C., (April 23, 2019). A Prescription for Wellness: Exercise Referrals for Patients at a Federally Qualified Health Center. Accepted as a Poster & Oral Presentation at the 3rd Annual Waco-Family Health Center Research Showcase. Waco, Texas
20. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Ylitalo, K., Jackson, G., (Mar. 10-13, 2019) Peripheral Neuropathy and Depressive Symptomology: Examining the Association Among Persons With and Without Diabetes. Accepted as a poster presentation at the 18th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Health Behavior. Greenville, South Carolina
21. **Benavidez, G.A.**, Ylitalo, K., Doyle, E., (Mar. 10-13, 2019). Bullying and Physical Violence in Brazilian Adolescents: Examining Risk and Protective Factors Using the Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS). Accepted as a poster presentation at the 18th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Health Behavior. Greenville, South Carolina
22. Asare, M., **Benavidez, G.A.**, Fakhoury, C., Thompson., N (March 6-9 2019). Sources of Medical Information matters: Racial Differences in Young Adults' Sources of Information and HPV Knowledge. Accepted as a poster presentation at the Society of Behavioral Medicine's 40th Annual Scientific Meeting.
23. **Benavidez, G. A.**, Umstatted-Meyer, M. R., Ylitalo, K., Hess, B., Griggs, J.O., Laschober, R., (Feb 17-20, 2019). Health Literacy and Physical Activity: Examining the Relationship Using Two Rapid Assessments. Accepted as a poster presentation at the Annual Active Living Research Conference.
24. Walsh S., Umstatted Meyer M. R., Wu C., Andre T. L., McClendon M. E., Bridges C. N., Miller A., **Benavidez G.A.**, & Bowden R. G. (Mar. 4-7, 2018). Do sit-stand workstations improve health markers among office employees? A randomized-controlled trial. Accepted as a poster presentation at the 17th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Health Behavior.
25. Umstatted Meyer M. R., Bridges C. N., Prochnow T., Arnold K. T., McClendon M. E., Wilkins E., Morales F. E., **Benavidez G. A.**, Williams T. D., Abildso C. & Pollack Porter K. (Mar. 4-7, 2018). Come together, play, be active: Physical activity engagement of children at Play Streets in four diverse rural communities. Accepted as a poster presentation at the 17th Annual Meeting of the

American Academy of Health Behavior.

26. Umstatter Meyer M. R., Bridges C. N., Prochnow T., Arnold K. T., McClendon M. E., Morales F. E., **Benavidez G.A.**, Williams T. D., Abildso C., & Pollack Porter K. M. (Feb. 11-14, 2018). Let them play: Physical activity of children attending Play Streets in four diverse rural communities. Accepted as an oral presentation at the Annual Active Living Research Conference
27. Hart, P.D., & **Benavidez, G.A.** (June 2017). A propensity score matched case-control study of historical physical activity and mortality in U.S. adults. Society for Epidemiologic Research 50th Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
28. Hart, P.D., & **Benavidez, G. A.** (Nov 2017). Latent class analysis of physical activity and mortality in U.S. adults. Accepted to American Public Health Association (APHA) 2017 Annual Meeting & Expo., Atlanta, GA.

Teaching experience

EPID 767: GIS and Public Health Applications (teaching practicum) (Fall 2021)

Invited Lectures

PUBH 700 Perspectives in Public Health, University of South Carolina: Research Methods to Identify Health Disparities (Fall 2022)

HSPM 500 Introduction to Healthcare Policy, University of South Carolina: An Introduction to Health Disparities and Inequity (Fall 2021)

PHE 306 Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of North Dakota: Study designs in public health research

Software Skills

ArcGIS Pro (Advanced)
ArcGIS StoryMaps (Advanced)
SAS (Advanced)
RStudio/Base R (Intermediate)