

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: Benjamin Neil Vickers

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CURRENT POSITIONS AND ADDRESSES:

Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health Leadership and Analytics, The University of Texas at Tyler, 3900 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75799

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 (FT=40 hours per week):

<i>Position</i>	<i>Entity</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Asst. Professor (FT)	Univ. of Texas at Tyler	August/2026 – present
Asst. Prof. via LAT (unpaid)	UNM Coll. of Population Health	June/2025 – June/2026
Research Scientist (FT)	UNM Comp. Cancer Center	November/2025 – March/2026
Math Teacher (FT)	West Las Vegas Schools (NM)	August/2025 – November/2025
Biostatistician/Epidem. (FT)	Univ. of New Mexico Health SC	July/2022 – May/2025
Adjunct Instructor	New Mexico Highlands Univ.	January/2022 – December/2024
Injury Epidemiologist (FT)	New Mexico Dept of Health	January/2022 – July/2022
Assistant Professor (FT)	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
Math Teacher (FT)	Brady ISD (Texas)	August/2011 – May/2013
Part-time 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
Math Teacher (FT)	Frenship ISD (Texas)	August/2007 – May/2008
Math Teacher (FT)	Seagraves ISD (Texas)	August/2006 – May/2007

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

Areas of Research: Population-based epidemiology and surveillance using health systems data and population-based survey research (longitudinal and cross-sectional surveys), social and health disparities/health equity epidemiology, health services research, gerontology, minority aging and caregiving, and religion/spirituality and health. For statistical analysis, I used SAS in my Ph.D. training and in my current work, and I used SPSS in my M.S. training.

Current Research Activities: I am currently the Biostatistician for the Academic Health Department in the College of Population Health at the University of New Mexico Health

Sciences Center. I recently completed a statewide assessment of health disparities for the New Mexico Department of Health using aggregate rates for hospitalizations. I recently completed a statewide health equity-focused report of diabetes-related emergency department visits in New Mexico to identify high-risk populations in the State for targeted public health efforts and interventions based on a combination of patient-level and community-level variables. As a follow-up to this report, I drafted a literature review to identify evidence-based interventions and prevention strategies to address the high-risk populations in New Mexico identified in the report, which strongly focused on non-Hispanic Native American populations and Hispanic populations in New Mexico. I also completed a brief follow-up analysis on gestational diabetes-related emergency department visits in New Mexico, and I completed a supplementary literature review on health equity issues concerning gestational diabetes. I am currently drafting a manuscript for peer-reviewed journal submission on community-level social vulnerability and diabetes-related emergency department visits.

As for my personal research agenda, I am drafting a manuscript for publication of a study I have been working on with one of my undergraduate Health majors at New Mexico Highlands University. The study is a cross-sectional comparison of pediatric leukemia patients with non-leukemia pediatric cancer patients in the U.S. to identify a risk profile focused on individual social and demographic variables alongside community-level factors. Aside from contributing to a better understanding of the risk profile for pediatric leukemia, the study may be useful for identifying ecological risk areas in the U.S.

I have several studies and papers from my graduate research that I am planning to submit for publication soon 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. In the first half of 2022, my research activities at the New Mexico Department of Health included periodic reporting on surveillance data for suicides, child fatalities, and fall-related injuries and deaths in New Mexico and in the U.S. I also helped prepare grant proposals 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

UNIVERSITY TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

a. Courses Taught:

ALHS 4333 – Stress Management

B. TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AT ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY:

a. Courses Taught:

HSP 4336 – Global Health

C. TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AT NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIV.:

a. Courses Taught:

HLED 3210 – Foundations of Community Health

HLED 3520 – Health and Sex Education

HLED 3530 – Health and Drug Education

HLED 4150/5150 – Health, Culture, and Diversity

HLED 4020 – U.S.-Mexico Border Health Issues

HLED 4210/5210 – Epidemiology

HLED 4740/5740 – Stress Management

HLED 4890 – Fitness/Wellness Program Leadership

EXSC 6200 – Research Methods in Human Performance, Leisure, & Sport

b. Collaborative Substitute Teaching:

HPS 3760/3210 – Exercise Physiology

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

a. Teaching Assistant:

Population Health Sciences 6330 – Introduction to Epidemiology

E. 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)

American Public Health Association (2024-2025)

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:

Vickers, B. N., Jimenez, A. R., Bogda, K. S., Jimenez, E. Y., & Collins, T. C. (2026). Rural-urban classification is associated with patient-and population-level disparities in leukemia relative to other pediatric cancers. *AIMS Public Health*, 13(2), 472-484.

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. SCREENED PRE-PRINTS

Vickers, B. N., Zhu, Y., & Collins, T. C. (2025). Moderation of Motivational Interviewing and a Smartphone App Interventions for Improving Physical Outcomes among Patients with Peripheral Artery Disease: Secondary Analysis of a Pilot Randomized Trial. *JMIR Preprints*, 82926.

<https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/82926>

Vickers, B. N., Jimenez, A. R., & Bogda, K. S. (2025). Multilevel Factors Associated with Pediatric Leukemia: The Role of Rural Areas Adjacent to Urban Areas. *MEDRXIV*, 326382. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.04.29.25326382>

C. OTHER:

Dissertation: Religio-Spiritual Distress Buffering and Diabetes-related Outcomes: A Mixed Methods Study of Older US Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. (Successfully defended December 17, 2020, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston)

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. ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO

Presented to the University of New Mexico's Academic Health Department Partners (March 2024): "Substance Use Disorder-related Emergency Department Visits, New Mexico, 2020: Risk Factors and Priority Populations for Prevention"

Presented to the University of New Mexico's Academic Health Department Partners (February 2023): "Diabetes Mellitus-Related Emergency Department Visits in New Mexico: Evidence-Based Interventions and Prevention"

Presented to the University of New Mexico's Academic Health Department Partners (February 2023): "Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM): Brief Health Equity-Focused Literature Review"

Presented to the University of New Mexico's Academic Health Department Partners (February 2023): "Gestational Diabetes Emergency Department Visits, New Mexico, 2020: Brief Report"

Presented to the Diabetes and Heart Health Section and the Office of Health Equity (January 2023): "Social and Constitutional Factors Associated with Diabetes Mellitus-Related Emergency Department Visits in New Mexico Adults, 2020"

Presented to the Office of Health Equity (December 2022): "Leading Causes of Hospitalization Disparities Across Sex, Race/Ethnicity, Health Region, and Urban-Rural Area of Residence: New Mexico, 2020"

Presented to the Office of Health Equity (November 2022): "Attributable Risk for Hospitalizations: Sex and Race/Ethnicity, New Mexico 2020"

Presented to the Office of Health Equity (November 2022): "Attributable Risk for Hospitalizations: Health Region and Urban-Rural Classification, New Mexico 2020"

B. 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:

American Public Health Association (October 2024): Recorded Lecture titled, “Innovations in Health Agency Surveillance Methods: Diabetes-related Emergency Department Visits Associated with Latent Community Vulnerabilities in a Statewide Dataset, New Mexico 2020”

New Mexico Public Health Association: Third Epidemiology Grand Rounds (January 2024): Lecture titled, “Residential and Personal Links to Pediatric Leukemia and Environmental Risk.”

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.”