

Ibrahim Rivera

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EDUCATION

2030 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
(Expected) School of Social Work
Rutgers University

2023 Master of Social Work (MSW)
Lehman College
The City of College of New York

2007 Bachelor of Arts
Pennsylvania State University

LICENSURE & CERTIFICATIONS

2023 Licensed Master of Social Work, New York
2023 Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor, New York
2021 Certified Google IT Support Professional

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's); Juvenile Justice and Youth Incarceration; Mass Incarceration, Restorative Justice and Reentry; Social Policy and Welfare; Substance Use Disorder; Urban Unrest; Volunteerism and Civic Engagement

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2025- Graduate Assistant, Rutgers University, Improving Outcomes and equity for Released Prisoners with Substance Use Disorder: Trajectories of Participation in Pre-Release and Post-Release Medications for Opioid Use Disorder, Peer Navigation, and Outcomes
- Conduct comprehensive literature reviews on Medication for Opioid Use Disorders (MOUDS).
 - Code interview transcripts of participants
- 2024- Researcher Assistant, American Institute for Research, [Measurements for Accountability to All People in Policy Solutions](#)
- Analyze national data to identify trends, disparities, and innovations to substance-abuse intervention.
 - Assist in developing actionable insights to inform targeted interventions and public health outcomes.
 - Conduct comprehensive literature reviews to analyze historical and current trends in policy and outcomes.
 - Collaborate with stakeholders to translate data insights into practical strategies for community-based interventions.
 - Participate in discussions on population trends, geographic areas, and policy innovations and investments.
 - Examine national data on policy implications and disenfranchised communities most impacted.
 - Provide technical guidance to states in developing and implementing strategies that address challenges.
- 2023- Research Assistant, [Higher Education in Prison Research](#) (HEP)
- Collaborate with stakeholders to translate data insights into practical strategies for community-based interventions.
 - Collect national data analytics on resource allocation, policy innovations, and population demographics.

- Conduct comprehensive literature reviews on to evaluate incarcerated populations access to higher education.
- Participate in research-based discussions with state agencies to explore how socioeconomic and geographic disparities influence drug policy innovations and investments
- in-depth literature reviews to inform programs, policies, and supports to increase educational access.
- Monitor population-level data to identify trends, disparities, and emerging themes in interventions.
- Employ and research-based and data-driven approach to examine gaps and trends in services and supports.

2022- Research Assistant, [CUNY Research Foundation Program](#)

- Provide direct support to research team in data collection, quota targets, and program sustenance.
- Optimize efficiency and effectiveness of data collection processes through technical upkeep and guidance.
- Conduct comprehensive literature reviews to support robust data collection and analysis.
- Organize and conduct qualitative interviews, protocol development, and collection of high-quality data.
- Maintained rigorous quality control standards to uphold the integrity of the data and the validity of findings.
- Participated in weekly team meetings to assess research progress and address any emerging challenges.
- Utilized Google platforms to create and manage data and track organizational processes efficiently.

18-19 Research Assistant, [New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons](#)

- Conducted surveys and interviews with incarcerated individuals to gather insights and educational supports.
- Compiled and analyzed qualitative and quantitative data to inform research and policy recommendations.
- Coordinated with administrators, staff, and incarcerated individuals to facilitate educational access.
- Reviewed existing literature on educational interventions and their effectiveness in prison settings.
- Assisted in highlighting the impact of educational programs on prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Guest Lecturer, Iowa State University, 2024, 2025
- Guest Lecturer, Silberman College of Social, 2022-23
- Guest Lecturer, New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons, 2015-17

COURSES TAUGHT

- Social Work Research; College Algebra; Trigonometry; Precalculus; Calculus I

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

21- ***Director of Community Based Programs***, Exodus Transitional Community, Harlem, NY

- Supervise multidisciplinary team delivery of harm reduction, and client-centered approaches.
- Foster partnerships with local organizations, government agencies, and community stakeholders to enhance service delivery.
- Develop and maintained a comprehensive system for monitoring and evaluating program outcomes.
- Annually review program mission, goals, and values to ensure alignment with client needs and services.
- Engage in community-outreach to support program expansion and sustainability of client services.
- Facilitate continuous learning and enhanced professional development opportunities.
- Manage program budget, including securing funding, allocating resources, and ensuring financial accountability.

20-21 ***Advisory Council Member & Reentry Mentor***, Exodus Transitional Community, Harlem, NY

- Digitalized internal record-keeping enabling tracking and managing of data points and participant progress
- Drove identification, development, and establishment of SMART goals and measurable outcomes
- Aided in document recovery, referrals, substance treatment, and services to address service needs

- Prepared state-mandated reports in accordance with contractual obligations and regulations
- Guided and support team members through software transition to Salesforce
- Maintained timely and concise communication with internal and external parties
- Provided supervision and real-time mentoring to foster skill development in supervisees.
- Generated pathways of professional development that enhanced the delivery of trauma-informed approaches

23- ***Washington Heights Credible Messenger Mentor***, The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

- Support adoption and integration of the credible messenger mentoring approach within their local contexts.
- Deliver messenger mentoring trainings, curricula, capacity-building to ensure effective implementation.
- **Promote** program expansion through research efforts, knowledge-sharing, and resource development.
- Provide hands-on technical assistance to community and learning hubs to support implementation.
- Collaborate with community and government partners to ensure fidelity in implementation of CM3 model.
- Accelerate the development of best practices and strategies for assessment, implementation, and evaluation.
- Engage in fostering community-based partnerships, knowledge building, and advancement of CM3 model.

18- ***Volunteer***, Transformative Justice Initiative, Camden, NJ

- Led social justice initiatives in collaboration with local-and-statewide agencies to develop post-release support.
- Assist in the development of building a post-release framework for individuals exiting the criminal justice system.
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to design and implement structural supports that aim to reduce recidivism and enhance reentry outcomes.
- Monitored program effectiveness through data analysis, progress monitoring, and participant feedback.
- Coordinate discussions on systemic barriers, actionable insights, and strategies for trajectory shifts.
- Cultivate educational materials and resources to develop research-based frameworks for post-release.
- Curated outcome assessments to refine and enhance supports, trainings, and information-sharing.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Rivera, I. (2022, October). The unspoken collateral damage of mass incarceration and its effect on BIPOC youth. New York State Social Worker Educators Association.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN & WRITTEN

- English, Spanish, and Arabic

TECHNOLOGY PROFICIENCIES

- Technical Support Fundamentals
- Operating Systems
- System Administration
- IT Security
- Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point
- Salesforce
- Computer Networking
- ETO Case Management
- Touch Points

TRAININGS

- Certified Mental Health First Aid
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Teaching Literacy
- Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment
- HIV/AIDS Awareness & Treatment
- Trauma-Informed Peer Support