

Hortensia Amaro

Dean's Professor Social Work and Preventive Medicine at USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Los Angeles, CA, US

Expert in substance abuse disorder treatment, HIV prevention and other urgent public health challenges.

Biography

Hortensia Amaro has dramatically advanced the understanding of substance abuse disorder treatment, HIV prevention and other urgent public health challenges through a distinguished career that has spanned scholarly research, translation of science to practice, top-level policy consultation and service on four Institute of Medicine committees. She has authored more than 130 scholarly publications, many widely-cited, and she has made landmark contributions to improving behavioral health care in community-based organizations by launching addiction treatment programs that have helped thousands of families and informing practice in agencies around the world.

Over the last 30 years, Amaro has forged vital connections between public health research and practice. Her studies have focused on alcohol and drug use and addiction among adolescents and adults; the development and testing of behavioral interventions for HIV/AIDS prevention, including innovative HIV prevention models targeted to Latina and African American women; substance abuse and mental health treatment for Latina and African American women and incarcerated men; alcohol and drug use among college populations; and behavioral interventions for HIV medications adherence.

Her groundbreaking studies on clinical strategies for treating women with co-occurring drug addiction, mental illness and post-traumatic stress disorder have provided strong evidence supporting integrated treatment for these conditions. Most recently, Amaro partnered with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of an integrated system of health and behavioral health care for at-risk children.

Over the last two decades, Amaro founded five substance abuse treatment programs for women in Boston: MOM's Outpatient Treatment Program; Entre Familia Residential Treatment Program; Moving on to Recovery and Empowerment (M.O.R.E.), an intensive outpatient treatment program for low-income women of color with co-occurring disorders; Safe and Sound Return Treatment Model for Incarcerated Women; and Boston Consortium of Services for Men in Recovery, a family-centered system of substance abuse treatment.

Industry Expertise

Research, Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse, HIV/AIDS Health Policy and Human Rights, Mental Health, Public Health

Affiliations

MOM's Outpatient Treatment Program: Founder, Entre Familia Residential Treatment Program: Founder, Moving on to Recovery and Empowerment (M.O.R.E.): Founder, Safe and Sound Return Treatment Model for Incarcerated Women: Founder, Boston Consortium of Services for Men in Recovery: Founder, American Psychologist: Associate Editor, American Journal of Public Health: Associate Editor, National Hispanic Psychological Association: Founder, National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse Research: Founder, National Trauma Consortium: Founder, Latino Health Institute: Founder, Multicultural AIDS Coalition: Founder

Education

University of California, Los Angeles
PhD

University of California, Los Angeles
MA

University of California, Los Angeles
BA

Accomplishments

Ernest R. Hilgard Lifetime Achievement Award, Division 1 (General Psychology), American Psychological Association
2013

Presidential Citation for Outstanding Contributions and Service to Psychology, American Psychological Association
2012

Honorary Degree in Humane Letters, Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology
2012

Women of Courage Award, La Alianza Hispana, Boston, MA
2011

El Planeta Powermeter 2009-2010, Top 100 Most Influential People for the Hispanic community in Massachusetts
2010

James Jones Lifetime Achievement Award, American Psychological Association
2009

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