

Chandria D. Jones

Principal Research Scientist

Dr. Chandria D. Jones is a Principal Research Scientist at NORC at the University of Chicago with over 20 years of experience leading evaluations and strategic learning initiatives for federal agencies and foundations in the areas of behavioral health, health equity, communication, and education. With an emphasis on culturally responsive and equitable evaluation and research, she leads equity-focused projects that leverage community engagement and participatory methods. She has a strong track record of working with learning networks and field-building initiatives to assess collective impact, measure systems-level change, and position organizations as thought leaders through strategic case studies. Her research examines social and environmental determinants of health for historically disadvantaged populations such as people from racial and ethnic minority groups, youth and families with lower incomes, and persons with mental health and substance use disorders.

NORC Experience

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Transforming Health and Healthcare Systems Portfolio Evaluation Planning Grant

Project Director, 2024 - Present

The Transforming Health and Healthcare Systems (THHCS) portfolio seeks to promote systemic changes in healthcare, focusing on reproductive justice, access, affordability, dignity, and governmental public health. NORC is working with the Research, Evaluation, and Learning (REL) Team at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to identify relevant questions about the portfolio's systemic impact, particularly in the context of structural barriers like structural racism, to develop clear, measurable indicators of progress, and to plan for bundled evaluations for the THHCS strategic portfolio. Responsibilities include providing leadership to the project team, managing the development of the indicators for progress, designing the bundled evaluation, and facilitating co-creation sessions with foundation staff, partners, and grantees.

Blue Shield of California Foundation Building Systems Evaluation Capacity

Co-Director, 2025 - 2026

Blue Shield of California focuses on addressing systemic issues such as gender and economic inequity, and racism, which contribute to health disparities and domestic violence. By collaborating with community-based organizations and investing in organizational, policy and systems change, the Foundation aims to create lasting and equitable solutions for Californians most affected by these challenges. NORC is working with the foundation to engage in capacity-building activities to advance the Foundation's systems evaluation work by refining and standardizing the definitions being used to track and improve its progress towards systems change. Responsibilities include strategic planning with the foundation Research and Learning staff, developing training materials, facilitating capacity-building sessions, and providing technical assistance.

Education

Ph.D., Behavioral and Community Health, 2014

University of Maryland

M.P.H., Epidemiology, 2004

Florida International University

B.S., Biomedical Science, 1999

Texas A&M University

Expertise

Culturally Responsive and Equitable Evaluation

- Participatory methods
- Structural and social determinants of health
- Systems complexity and systems thinking

Qualitative Methods

- Study design
- Instrument development
- Data collection and analysis
- Staff training and oversight

Communications

- Meeting facilitation
- Message and materials testing
- Culturally appropriate product development
- Community engagement

Developing Recommendations for Disaggregating Data within Asian American Populations

Community Engagement Lead, 2025-2026

NORC and its partners, the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum and Stop AAPI Hate, are leading a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded grant to develop recommendations for how data on the Asian American population can be disaggregated into smaller subgroups so that research and programs reflect, and can be better tailored to, their needs and experiences. The project team is using a participatory approach, including secondary qualitative and quantitative analysis and gathering of community input, to ensure the recommendations are evidence-based and community-informed. Duties include: Overseeing the development and implementation of engagement strategies, facilitating community input and co-design, and coordinating with other project leads to ensure community input is incorporated into project activities.

Exploratory Evaluation of Anti-Racism Practices in Healthcare Settings

Project Director, 2022 - 2024

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention (DHDSP) is working with NORC, in partnership with BLKHLTH and the American Hospital Association (AHA), to evaluate implementation of anti-racism practices in healthcare settings. As the nation's public health agency, CDC uses science to examine the intersection of racism and health to address resulting inequities. NORC will support CDC in this effort to identify and evaluate anti-racism practices in three health systems. Key tasks include adapting systematic screening and assessment/evaluability assessments, convening a culturally and racially diverse Subject Matter Expert (SME) Panel to provide direct input on project-related activities; conducting a literature review and meta-analysis focused on anti-racism policies and practices in health system settings; using a case study methodology to evaluate multi-level anti-racism interventions in three health systems; and developing and disseminating translation tools to facilitate adoption of effective practices for transforming care delivery.

Implementation of Evidence Informed Behavioral Health Models to Improve HIV Health Outcomes for Black Men who have Sex with Men

Principal Investigator, 2021 - 2023

The Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Initiative, Implementation of Evidence-Informed Behavioral Health Models to Improve HIV Health Outcomes for Black Men who have Sex with Men (BMSM), is a three-year initiative funded by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) that funds eight recipient sites to implement evidence-informed behavioral health interventions and/or models of care (MOCs) to engage, link, and retain BMSM living with HIV in medical care and supportive services. The interventions/MOCs include strategies to integrate behavioral health services, including substance use disorder treatment, with HIV care to specifically address the needs of HIV-positive BMSM and improve their health outcomes. Responsibilities include overseeing a comprehensive and culturally responsive, mixed-method, multisite evaluation that includes providing technical assistance (TA) to eight Initiative demonstration sites and disseminating Initiative evaluation findings and lessons learned to the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program community.

Professional History

NORC at the University of Chicago 2021 - Present

- *Senior Research Scientist*
2021 - present

Westat, Rockville, MD

- *Senior Research Associate*
2015 - 2020
- *Lead Associate*
2007 - 2014
- *Research Associate*
2004 - 2006

The Prosperity Agenda, Seattle, WA

- *Consultant*
2020-2022

Leaders in Equitable Evaluation and Diversity (LEEAD)

- *Scholar in Residence, Chapin Hall
at the University of Chicago*
2018

NORC Social Media Master Agreement

Community Engagement Panel Lead, 2021 – 2023

Truth Initiative's policy research team and NORC's Social Data Collaboratory (SDC) are working to conduct and support research that advances tobacco control efforts. Tasks included manuscript development, community engagement panel, and conducting research on emerging trends and exploratory work to inform rapid response project. Responsibilities include leading a menthol tobacco community engagement panel to understand the role of social media in shaping and driving the narrative around the proposed menthol ban.

Selected Publications and Presentations

Adedoyin, C., Amutah-Onukagha, N. and **Jones, C.** (eds.) (2023). Culturally Responsive and Equitable Evaluation: Visions and Voices of Emerging Scholars. Cognella, Inc.

Daniels, I., Anthony, T., Peavie, J., Miesfeld, N., Pyatt, T., Robinson, D., **Jones, C.** (2022). Black Men Who Have Sex with Men with HIV and Providers in HIV Care Settings Reflect on Stigma-Reducing Strategies to Promote Engagement in Health Care. *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*. Oct 2022. S-28-S-35.
<http://doi.org/10.1089/apc.2022.0102>

Hodge, S. E., Passero, M., Robinson, D., Shah, S., Anthony, T., & **Jones, C. D.** (2022). Prioritizing Flexibility, Human Connection, and Representation: Findings from the Qualitative Process Evaluation of the Special Projects of National Significance Black Men Who Have Sex with Men Initiative. *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*, 36(S1), S-21. <http://doi.org/10.1089/apc.2022.0094>

Shah, S. V., Reist, B. M., Sawyer, J. L., Chiao, A. B., Hodge, S. E., **Jones, C. D.**, & Rein, D. B. (2022). Evaluating Evidence-Informed Behavioral Health Models to Improve HIV Health Outcomes: Quantitative Findings from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Special Projects of National Significance Black Men Who Have Sex with Men Initiative. *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*, 36(S1), S-3. <http://doi.org/10.1089/apc.2022.0095>

Howard, D.E., Debnam, K.J., **Jones, C.**, Saboori, Z., Aiken, N., & O'Brien, S.A. (2020). Personal religiosity and adolescent females' characterizations of healthy dating dynamics. *Children and Teenagers*. Available at: <http://www.scholink.org/ojs/index.php/ct/article/view/3155> . doi: 10.22158/ct.v3n2p11

Jones, C., Newsome, J., Levin, K., Wilmot, A., Anderson, J., & Kline, T. (2018). Friends or strangers? A feasibility study of an innovative focus group methodology. *The Qualitative Report*, 23(1), 98-112.

Milam, A.J., **Jones, C.**, Debnam, K.J., & Bradshaw, C.P. (2017). School environments and obesity: The mediating role of personal stress. *Journal of Community Psychology*. doi: 10.1002/jcop.21888

Boekeloo, B.O., **Jones, C.**, Bhagat, K., Siddiqui, J., and Wang, M.Q. (2015). The role of intrinsic motivation in the pursuit of health science-related careers among youth from underrepresented low socioeconomic populations. *Journal of Urban Health*, 92(5), 980-994. doi: 10.1007/s11524-015-9987-7 PMID: 26369541

Johnson-Turbes, A. and **Jones, C.** (2023, May). *The Art of Inclusive & Equitable Research: Building the Case for Equity Science*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Communicators' Network.

Jones, C., (2023, March). *Shifting the Behavioral Health Landscape through Evaluation: Frameworks, Methods, and Strategies to Advance Health Equity*. Community Opioid Response & Evaluation Project Final Convening. PEW Charitable Trust, Washington, DC.

Jones, C. (2023, January). *Systems, Processes, Perspectives: Considerations for Equity-Oriented Data Analysis*. Elevating Equity Convening.

Jones, C. (2022, October). *An Inclusive and Equitable Application of Mixed Methods and Qualitative Approaches*. Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) Innovative Methods Meeting.

Jones, C. (2022, June). *Advancing Health Equity Research: Thinking Differently About Data*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Research and Methodology.

Jones, C. (2022, February). *Activating the Next Generation of Young and Emerging Evaluators*. EvalYouth North America Launch Event.