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## Faculty Biography Form

**Hispanic/Latina Women in Medicine: Critical Needs for Empowerment and Transformation in Practice  
2024**

September 13-15, 2024

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**Dr. Niko Verdecias-Pellum, DrPH, MPH**  
**Assistant Professor in Population Health**  
**Arizona State University, College of Health Solutions**

**Specialties:** Chronic conditions, diabetes, health disparities, health inequity, social determinants of health and social risks/needs, dissemination and implementation science, mixed methods research

Dr. Niko Verdecias-Pellum (pronounced VER-DEE-SHE-US) is an Assistant Professor of Population Health in the College of Health Solutions at Arizona State University (ASU). She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Syracuse University, a master's of public health (MPH) from SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and a doctorate in public health (DrPH) from Drexel University. She completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis in the Brown School and was a Scholar in the NIH Implementation Science Program. With over 15 years of experience in public health, Dr. Verdecias-Pellum has led various studies funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration Special Projects of National Significance, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health. Notably, she has conducted

research on the impact of unmet social needs (also known as social risks) on diabetes self-management in Black, Hispanic, and low-income populations. Dr. Verdecias-Pellum's primary research interests focus on health disparities and inequities in marginalized populations, with a particular emphasis on diabetes and related chronic disease comorbidities. As a community-engaged researcher and an implementation and intervention scientist, her work aims to develop sustainable, tailored, evidence-based interventions to improve diabetes self-management, reduce multi-morbidity risk, and empower self-efficacy by addressing the severity of social needs among racially and economically diverse adults living with diabetes.