

A Unique Partnership with Michigan's Communities



Dear Colleague,



Welcome to the University of Michigan School of Public Health!

And thank you for the opportunity and privilege to work with you in the partnerships and collaborations across the state of Michigan that fill these pages.

The University of Michigan School of Public Health community believes it is both an honor and a duty to serve the citizens of the state of Michigan. The many disciplines represented by the field of public health provide opportunities to approach problems with diverse perspectives and expertise. From the **Intertribal Council of Michigan** in our upper peninsula, south to the **Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation**, west to the **Greater Flint Health Coalition**, and every other direction in the state, our faculty engage Michigan's communities in an array of fascinating endeavors that improve the health of the public here in Michigan.

The opening of the school's Crossroads building in fall 2006 represents a literal, as well as a metaphorical, "crossroads" that fosters collaboration among faculty,

students, staff, and communities of all kinds. I invite you to visit our facilities, use them to advance the mission of public health, and meet our dedicated faculty and student body.

The University of Michigan School of Public Health community believes it is both an honor and a duty to serve the citizens of the state of Michigan.

On behalf of the School of Public Health, I encourage you to bring your energy and passion to public health initiatives in Michigan. We hope that our faculty's research efforts will continue to inform sound decision-making as we join together in finding solutions to the pressing health problems that confront us today. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Warner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dean Kenneth E. Warner



Promoting Healthy Behaviors

The **Detroit Community—Academic Urban Research Center (URC)**, a collaborative partnership involving the UM Schools of Public Health, Nursing, and Social Work; the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion; and eight community-based organizations, works to improve the health and quality of life of families and communities on the east and southwest sides of Detroit. Research contributes to the understanding of the relationship among social determinants, protective factors, and health outcomes. The URC oversees several projects, including those described here.

The **Healthy Environments Partnership Lean and Green in Motown** project studies the relationships between the built environment, physical activity, and dietary practices. Researchers assess residents' use of green spaces in selected neighborhoods to develop social and behavioral approaches to reduce obesity in this population.

REACH Detroit Partnership Community Action Plan aims to reduce diabetes and its related complications in the African-American and Hispanic communities in east and southwest Detroit.

Promoting Healthy Eating in Detroit aims to increase the supply of and demand for healthy foods. By partnering with community and food-related organizations, the project develops community-run fresh produce mini-markets, healthy-eating demonstrations, and market tours for residents of east and southwest Detroit neighborhoods.

Community Action Against Asthma investigates environmental triggers of asthma, and develops interventions to reduce exposure to these triggers and improve the health of children with asthma living in Detroit.

“The Detroit URC has been instrumental in creating a bridge between Detroit residents, community-based organizations, and the University of Michigan for the development of relevant programs that not only provide jobs and funding of over \$30 million, but more importantly, promote the ‘dream’ programs of the community.” — J. Ricardo Guzman, MSW, MPH, Chief Executive Officer, Community Health and Social Services (CHASS) Center, Detroit, Michigan



▲ A UM SPH faculty-developed program investigates environmental triggers of asthma, and develops interventions to reduce exposure to these triggers and improve the health of children with asthma living in Detroit.

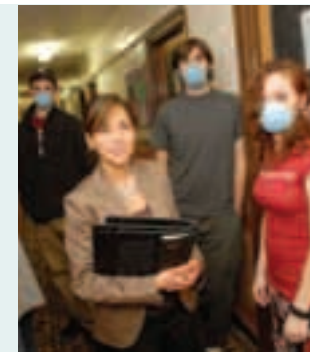
UM SPH contributions to the state of Michigan

► Developing nutritional and physical activity programs for African-American women of reproductive age in Flint in efforts to reduce infant mortality rates

► Studying the impact of tailored communications that encourage people to quit smoking and eat more fruits and vegetables, in partnership with the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit



► Distributing information on lifestyle choices to teenagers throughout southeastern Michigan as part of the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project



► Working with students in UM residence halls to determine how to prevent the spread of influenza on college campuses

Health Care and the Uninsured



Aiming to address the dramatic increases in health care costs and the resulting increases in the un- and underinsured, faculty from the **Center for Value-Based Insurance Design** advise the Michigan Department of Community Health in efforts to design and implement a novel health insurance plan for Michigan's uninsured population. This team of researchers with both clinical and economic expertise encourages inclusion of value-based insurance design principles in the Michigan First Healthcare Plan in order to ensure that value — the clinical benefit achieved for the money spent — is the foundation for coverage of benefits, not cost or quality alone.

“Our Michigan First Healthcare Plan team has greatly enjoyed working with the Center for Value-Based Insurance Design at the University of Michigan. By employing this innovative approach to reduce, and in some cases, eliminate co-payments for health services, we hope to both create incentives for healthy behaviors and preventive care, and encourage cost-effective utilization of those services.”
— Steve Fitton, Director, Bureau of Medicaid Policy and Actuarial Services, Michigan Department of Community Health

SPH faculty have focused on **increasing access to health care for low-income children** in east Detroit by enrolling uninsured children in the Medicaid program. In partnership with several community organizations, these efforts have reduced barriers that prevented community residents from using the state's Medicaid agency.

Research on the nature and scope of **Michigan's health care safety net** focuses on the strategies that safety net organizations have devised in order to survive in an era of reduced resources. This work studies the impact of the growth of managed care, changes in the way health care is financed, financial pressures throughout the health care delivery system, and the growing ranks of the uninsured on safety net health care organizations, the last resort for uninsured people in need of health services in Michigan.

Faculty collaborate with **Save Lives, Save Dollars**, a program of the Greater Detroit Area Health Council to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of care provided in southeast Michigan.

UM SPH contributions to the state of Michigan

► Assessing the role and impact of the Michigan Surgeon General via stakeholders throughout Michigan, including politicians, public health practitioners, and citizens



► Examining how public health practitioners in Michigan identify and resolve ethical challenges in their everyday work

► Monitoring health outcomes resulting from Washtenaw County health improvement plan objectives

► Studying the impact of lower copayments for medicines related to diabetes mellitus on improvements in health outcomes for UM employees and their dependents

Preparedness and Response

Under the leadership of the **Office of Public Health Practice**, UM School of Public Health faculty and students engage in a wide variety of academic-practitioner collaborations across the state. Two centers offer competency-based, performance-driven training courses and lifelong learning opportunities designed to strengthen the capacity of Michigan's state and local public health workforce. The **Michigan Public Health Training Center** focuses on a broad group of basic and foundational competencies, while the **Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness** focuses on competencies to prepare for and respond to threats of bioterrorism, West Nile virus, SARS, pandemic influenza, and other health emergencies. These centers have trained thousands of public health and health care professionals in each of Michigan's 83 counties and 45 local health departments.

The **Public Health Action Support Team (PHAST)** is a team of trained students who actively assist local and state health departments in meeting the demands of public health events, disasters, and investigations in the field. During a recent restaurant-based foodborne outbreak in Charlotte, Michigan, student volunteers were deployed to the site, where they conducted interviews and managed data as part of the Barry-Eaton District Health Department's response team.



▲ *More than 650 public health and health care professionals, academics, students, and members of the media and the public participated in the January 2006 symposium, "Human Health and Animal Disease: An Epidemiologic Collision?" Keynote remarks were provided by Anthony S. Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health.*

"At a time when our state and local public health departments are challenged to respond to a growing set of threats to the public's health, the Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness offers a unique and essential resource to strengthen the preparedness competencies of the local public health workforce and protect the health of Michigan's citizens."— Ellen J. Clement, Health Officer, Washtenaw County Public Health Department, Ypsilanti, Michigan; President, Michigan Association for Local Public Health



► *Developing culturally tailored colorectal cancer screening program in Flint*



► *Investigating factors that affect longitudinal changes in breast density as women move through the menopausal transition across racial/ethnic groups in Michigan, through the Study of Women Across the Nation*

► *Studying the disease burden among Arab immigrant communities in southeastern Michigan, including chronic and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis, as well as diabetes and cancer*

► *Disseminating body and soul faith-based health promotion programs in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Detroit*



The Older Adult Population

“The Michigan Medicaid program has worked with the University of Michigan’s Institute of Gerontology for many years. In addition to providing valuable ongoing advice on a variety of long-term care issues, the institute developed a level-of-care screening tool that significantly improved efficiency and effectiveness of our \$2 billion long-term care program.” — Paul Reinhart, Director, Medical Services Administration, Michigan Department of Community Health

SPH faculty are committed to improving the care of Michigan’s aging adults and have led efforts to design tools to produce better health outcomes in this growing population. Faculty development of a **Resident Assessment Instrument** to analyze nursing homes statewide helps the state develop eligibility criteria to ensure that the elderly and disabled receive high-quality care. This information assists the Michigan Department of Community Health in assessing quality of life in nursing home and home care settings.

Faculty direct the statewide **Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center**. This center disseminates information about Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders through community-based efforts, assists physicians in southeastern Michigan with new clinical tools for diagnosing dementia, and develops interventions designed to increase physical activity among family caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s disease.



▲ *UM SPH faculty-developed programs help ensure that the elderly and disabled receive high-quality health care in Michigan.*

UM SPH contributions to the state of Michigan

► *Designing incentives in the model contract between Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and hospitals in Michigan*



► *Reviewing research proposals that would utilize confidential data from the Michigan statewide cancer registry, the statewide birth defects registry, and the statewide immunization registry*

► *Examining student mental health at Michigan’s colleges and universities, with an emphasis on understanding factors that facilitate or impede access to mental health services, as part of the Healthy Minds Study*



► *Quantifying the disease burden of each jurisdiction and comparing it to other state and U.S. communities via epidemiology student internships in local health departments throughout Michigan*

Social Inequalities/Health Disparities

Youth Empowerment Solutions for Peaceful Communities (YES) is a community-academic partnership project that engages youth in neighborhood organizations and community change to prevent youth violence. YES focuses on middle-school students in areas of Flint with high levels of youth violence and crime, as well as a history of community activism and vital neighborhood organizations.

Fathers & Sons, a collaboration among the Genesee County Health Department, the UM SPH Prevention Research Center, and community-based organizations aims to facilitate communication and strengthen bonds between non-resident African-American fathers and their eight- to twelve-year-old sons. The study assesses strategies for reducing or preventing youth substance use, violent behavior, and early sexual initiation.

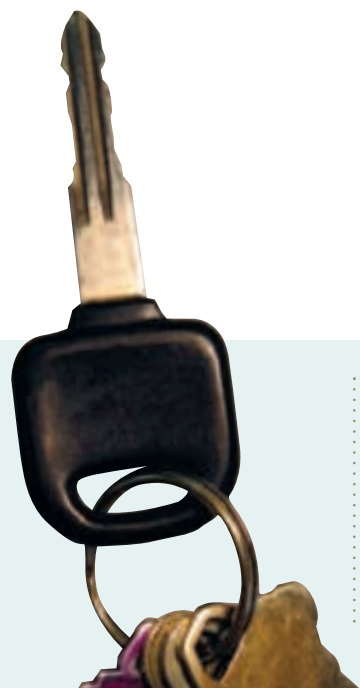
A recent study of **women's health under welfare reform** looked at single mothers receiving cash benefits in one of Michigan's urban counties. The study found that welfare recipients are 2.4 times more likely to have hypertension, 1.8 times more likely to be obese, and nearly five times as likely to have elevated levels of a marker related to diabetes than those not receiving public assistance.

UM SPH faculty work with the **Detroit Center for Research on Oral Health Disparities**, a collaborative venture involving the UM, the Voices of Detroit Initiative, and the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion. The center conducts the largest evaluation of oral health among low income African-Americans, and investigates the social, economic, environmental, and biological causes of disparities in oral health.



▲ *Fathers & Sons is an innovative, culturally-based, family-focused preventive intervention designed to facilitate communication and strengthen bonds between non-resident African-American fathers and their eight- to twelve-year-old sons.*

“I would like to express how much I enjoyed working with all of the youth, as well as the YES staff that participated in the Pierson Park site; it was a project that changed my life. I never thought that getting involved in something like beautifying a park could make a community, youth, or myself feel so good. I wish there were more people like the YES staff in Genesee County who cared about the youth and the community. I'm sincerely grateful for the experience.” — Katrina Coleman, Community Volunteer, Flint, Michigan



► *Understanding how communities in Michigan organize to provide diabetes and mental health care to uninsured populations*

► *Studying the impact of Michigan's three-stage graduated driver licensing program for new drivers on motor vehicle crashes, the leading cause of death among U.S. teenagers*

► *Identifying risk factors that predict drug use, violent behavior, risky sexual behavior, school failure, and the factors that can mitigate the negative outcomes of such risks, through the Flint Adolescent Study*



► *Inviting input on health care reform and universal coverage at a town hall meeting in Ann Arbor, as part of the Citizens' Health Care Working Group*

UM SPH Centers & Initiatives

Allies Against Asthma is a nationwide initiative to improve efforts to control pediatric asthma.

Asthma Research Collaborative is a network of faculty and research staff working on asthma-related initiatives.

Biometrics and Outcomes Research Core provides expertise in multicenter clinical trials and multidisciplinary research.

Cancer Epidemiology Education in Special Populations Program trains students to implement studies on cancer in special populations.

Center for Health Communications Research develops population-based health communications strategies tailored to specific characteristics of the individual.

Center for Law, Ethics, and Health examines the law's influence on the health care delivery system and the public health system.

Center for Managing Chronic Disease aims to build the capacity for effective chronic disease prevention and management.

Center for Molecular and Clinical Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases seeks to better understand the pathogenesis, transmission, and evolution of infectious agents that impact human health.

Center for Research on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health is a forum for interdisciplinary investigations of the social determinants of U.S. racial and ethnic group differences in health status and health behaviors.

Center for Risk Science and Communication seeks to identify, isolate, and quantify various risks to human health, in order to improve the risk-evaluation process.

Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health focuses on understanding health inequalities from multiple perspectives.

Center for Statistical Genetics encourages research at the interface between the mathematical sciences and genetics.

Center for Value-Based Insurance Design develops, evaluates, and promotes health insurance products designed to improve health outcomes and contain costs.

Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center conducts interdisciplinary, collaborative, community-based participatory research to improve the health and quality of life of families and communities in Detroit.

Disaster Research Education and Mentoring Center provides practical education, mentoring, and technical assistance to researchers and agencies interested in research following disasters and terrorism.

Economic Research Initiative on the Uninsured conducts health policy research focusing on health insurance coverage trends.

Global Health Programs and Initiatives study the relationships between developing and industrialized countries, and conduct research and training to reduce disparities in global health.

Griffith Leadership Center promotes leadership and best-practice initiatives in the health care delivery system.

Health & Society Scholars Program trains future leaders and scholars to understand the links between society and health.

Healthy Environments Partnership studies the social and physical environments in three Detroit neighborhoods linked to risk for heart disease.

Life Sciences and Society provides educational and research opportunities to bridge the life sciences and the diverse web of values in our society.

Michigan Center for Public Health & Community Genomics aims to further the integration of genomic discoveries into public health practice.

Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness provides competency-based training to develop the capacity of the public health workforce to prepare for and respond to public health crises.

Michigan Initiative on Inequalities in Health promotes inquiry into the causes and consequences of societal inequalities in health and potential remedies.

Michigan Public Health Training Center provides foundational continuing education to a diverse group of public health professionals.

Prevention Research Center of Michigan conducts research to prevent disease and promote health, and translates findings into public health programs and policies.

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health Detroit Partnership aims to eliminate differences in the health status of racial/ethnic minorities.

Tobacco Research Network is a forum for the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas related to nicotine addiction, tobacco use, and tobacco control issues.

Environmental Health

The **Michigan Dioxin Exposure Study** measures and characterizes dioxin exposures in people living in the Tittabawassee River flood plain in Midland and Saginaw counties, and in Jackson and Calhoun counties. The study examines and measures levels of dioxins in blood, soil, and household dust, and identifies the factors that explain variation in blood dioxin levels. In partnership with Midland-Saginaw and Jackson-Calhoun community advisory panels, a team of more than 60 scientists assesses the impact of fish consumption, recreational activities, occupation, age, and other factors on these levels.

The **Monitoring Atmospheric Mercury Species in Michigan** project is a collaboration between the University of Michigan Air Quality Laboratory and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality–Air Quality Division. Currently, the Michigan Department of Community Health has issued fish advisories statewide warning of possible hazards of fish consumption due to elevated levels of mercury found in some of Michigan’s 11,000 inland lakes. This team of researchers is working to gain a better understanding of the atmospheric deposition of mercury in Michigan and to determine the actual contribution of mercury from the air. Their research will facilitate identification of source sector contributions of mercury to Michigan’s environment.



▲ *UM SPH researchers are conducting a long-term study of the Tittabawassee River flood plain.*

“Partnering with the University of Michigan School of Public Health over the past several years has provided the state of Michigan with the expertise and resources to assess event-based wet deposition and dry deposition of mercury in the state. Very few other states in the nation have been able to make these measurements. We look forward to a continued collaboration that will assist in tracking reductions in mercury depositions across the state.” — Joy Taylor Morgan, Environmental Quality Specialist, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division

Each year, Michigan citizens and workers are exposed to chemical, biological, and/or physical agents encountered in their communities and workplaces. Ergonomic stresses and safety hazards are also major causes of workplace morbidity and mortality.

► *Reviewing and advising local city council-appointed commission on policy related to the environment and public health, including city stormwater priorities and recommendations*



► *Studying men’s reproductive health, including HIV risk among Arab-American men in the Dearborn area*

► *Consulting with policymakers on activities related to genetics and legal and ethical aspects of embryonic stem cell research*

► *Examining interactions between age at first full-term pregnancy with other known breast cancer risk factors, and breast cancer risk in the Detroit metropolitan area compared with other regions in the U.S.*





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