

News Release: (9/04/02)

The Healthy Environments Partnership (HEP), a collaboration between community-based organizations, universities and health care providers in Detroit is conducting a study of cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death among Detroit residents. The study is focused on understanding stress, air pollution and nutrition as these affect the chance of getting heart disease, and on ways to lower the risk of heart disease.

Beginning in the spring of 2002 year, interviewers have gone to households to ask residents about common stresses in Detroit and learn how the stresses may impact the risk of heart disease. To date, over 500 people have been interviewed. The goal is to complete 1,000 surveys by the late 2002. Other activities include continuous air quality monitoring in selected Detroit neighborhoods. Poor air quality has been indicated as a risk factor for cardiovascular disease. Information from the surveys and air quality monitoring will be shared with local organizations and community residents in an effort to develop effective approaches to lowering heart disease risk for residents of southwest, northwest and east side of Detroit.

The neighborhoods included in the survey are: 1) Eastside: Grand Boulevard to St. Jean, Gratiot to Jefferson; 2) Southwest: Livernois to Trumbull, I-94 to Jefferson; and 3) Northwest: 7 Mile to Schoolcraft, Fenkell to Telegraph to Outer Drive. The HEP partners include: Brightmoor Community Center, Butzel Family Center, Friends of Parkside, Detroit Health Department, Henry Ford Health System, Southwest Counseling & Development Services, Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision, The University of Detroit-Mercy, and The University of Michigan School of Public Health, School of Nursing, and Institute for Social Research. For more information, call the Healthy Environments Partnership at our toll-free number: 1-866-575-4453.

The Healthy Environments Partnership is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and is a project of the Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center (www.sph.umich.edu/urc).