



Improving Health in Partnership with Families and Communities

The mission of the Prevention Research Center of Michigan (PRC/MI) is to create and foster knowledge resulting in more effective public health programs and policies. The Center conducts community-based prevention research to improve health and prevent disease, especially focused on populations with a disproportionate share of poor health outcomes.

PRC/MI CORE ACTIVITIES:

- **Partnerships** among community-based organizations, state and local health departments, health service and advocacy groups, the University of Michigan School of Public Health and UM Flint campus;
- **Research** projects addressing infant mortality, health care access, father involvement, asthma, physical activity, youth violence and community empowerment;
- **Training and Dissemination** for students, practitioners, academics and community members;
- **Surveillance** of social determinants of health, behavioral risk factors, and violence.

SELECTED PRC/MI PROJECTS

Community Capacity-Building to Reduce Health Disparities: Community-based organizations (CBOs) participate in this project to increase their capacity to become equal partners in prevention research and reduce local health disparities. Trainings, consultations, workshops, and seminars offer the CBOs skills and strategies to garner and manage resources, influence decision-makers to bring about health-promoting policy changes, plan effective intervention strategies, develop grant proposals and address factors that contribute to health disparities.

Speak to Your Health! Community Survey and Qualitative Assessment: The survey was designed by community, health department and university partners to understand and monitor community health and community concerns and to promote changes that benefit the community. The goals are: 1) to understand residents' health-related behaviors and perceptions; 2) to provide information for evaluation of PRC projects and activities; 3) to provide data for needs assessment; 4) to identify community assets; 5) to understand the associations between residents' health-related behaviors and perceptions, environmental determinants, and health outcomes; 6) to provide training opportunities; and 7) to develop a community health agenda that is widely disseminated and democratic.

REACH 2010 Infant Mortality Initiative Evaluation: The Genesee County REACH 2010 initiative focuses on reducing disparities in African American infant mortality with a three-pronged approach to improve baby care systems, mobilize the community, and reduce racism. The current Genesee County REACH 2010 evaluation plan includes a vital statistics assessment of the four REACH 2010 focus ZIP code areas by year. A Racism and Health Disparities Survey will also be conducted to collect information on health and experiences of racial discrimination among 200 REACH 2010 participants, 200 other residents of Genesee County who have not participated in REACH 2010, and 200 residents of a comparison county (Saginaw County) between the ages of 18 and 45.

Youth Empowerment Solutions for Peaceful Communities (YES): The goals of the YES project are to provide youth with opportunities for meaningful involvement in preventing youth violence and creating community change, enhancing neighborhood organizations' ability to engage youth in their activities, and change the social and physical environment to reduce and prevent violence. The intervention includes three components: 1) youth empowerment activities; 2) neighborhood organization development; and 3) community development projects that involve youth and organizations working together. The evaluation includes student surveys, property ratings, and police incident data.

COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH PRINCIPLES

These principles guide the collaborative research conducted by the PRC.

Community-based research partners:

- **R**espect each other's contributions;
- **E**ncourage change and promote knowledge in ways that benefit communities;
- **S**hare credit and responsibility for results;
- **P**romote an emphasis on locally relevant health issues;
- **E**xamine the social, economic and cultural influences on health;
- **C**ollaborate on all major phases of the research process;
- **T**reat research participants ethically;
- **F**urnish results to the community in a useful manner;
- **U**tilize community strengths and expertise; and
- **L**ink research to action to enhance community capacity.

STATE PARTNERS

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
MI. Assoc. for Local Public Health
MI Assoc. of Health Plans
MI Council for Maternal Child Health
MI Dept. of Community Health
MI League for Human Services
MI Nurses Association
MI Osteopathic Association
MI Primary Care Association
MI Public Health Institute
MI State Medical Society
United Autoworkers

State contact:

Jean Chabut
MI Dept. of Community Health
P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-8369
email: chabutj@state.mi.us

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Dort-Oak Park Neighborhood House
Faith Access to Community
Economic Development
Flint Odyssey House, Inc.
Health Awareness Center
Flint/Genesee County Neighborhood
Roundtable
Genesee County Community
Action Resource Department
Genesee County Health Department
Greater Flint Health Coalition
YOUR Center

Community contact:

Lee Bell
Neighborhood Roundtable
601 N. Saginaw St., #1-C
Flint, MI 48502
(810) 239-7576
email: belll@umich.edu

UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

University of Michigan
School of Public Health
Biostatistics
Environmental Health Sciences
Epidemiology
Health Behavior/Health Education
Health Management & Policy
University of Michigan Flint

University contact:

Susan Morrel-Samuels
U-M School of Public Health
109 Observatory
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2029
(734) 647-0542
email: sumosa@umich.edu

*For more information visit our website at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/prc>
The Prevention Research Center of Michigan is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*