

## Description

The **NYU School of Medicine - City University of New York School of Public Health Prevention Research Center (NYU-CUNY PRC)** is an innovative *public-private partnership* between the NYU School of Medicine Department of Population Health and the CUNY School of Public Health (SPH) Epidemiology and Biostatistics Program.

## History

The PRC was formerly established at NYU School of Medicine in October 2009 and its mission has been centered on building and enhancing community capacity and leadership to develop relevant, sustainable health promotion and disease prevention initiatives. Since its inception, the PRC at NYU School Medicine has successfully: (1) developed and implemented training programs targeting community health workers (CHWs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and students of public health and medicine; (2) implemented and evaluated a CHW-led diabetes prevention intervention for Korean and South Asian communities in NYC; (3) established one of five national CDC-supported Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (NOPREN) centers that works in cooperation with NYC DOHMH to evaluate obesity and nutrition public health policies locally; (4) implemented a CDC-sponsored comparative effectiveness research program to evaluate community-level CHW interventions for hypertension and colorectal cancer prevention in Black communities; and (5) advanced local and state policy regarding CHW integration in health care delivery systems in the Accountable Care Act era. The PRC has a reputation for providing high quality mentored research training opportunities in community-based settings and in advancing competencies among community-based and public health practice organizations to address population health disparities. Through these projects, NYU School of Medicine has established a strong collaboration with front-line public health agencies and health providers, namely the NYC DOHMH, the NYS DOH, and the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC).

## The New NYU-CUNY PRC

In fall 2013, the PRC was re-conceptualized into a full partnership between NYU School of Medicine and CUNY SPH. CUNY's new SPH leverages its institution's longstanding tradition of serving and educating NYC's diverse minority and low-income populations. Across 5 graduate centers, 11 senior colleges and 7 community colleges, CUNY trains nearly 270,000 degree-seeking students each year. The CUNY SPH has capitalized on this infrastructure by establishing an integrated campus spanning all boroughs. CUNY SPH has also established a unique portfolio of bi-lateral public health practice and research collaborations with the NYC DOHMH to advance the health of NYC residents.

The goals of the NYU-CUNY PRC are to translate and adapt evidence-based interventions into integrated community-clinical approaches to reduce cardiovascular disease disparities in NYC. Specifically, we aim to identify strategies to advance implementation of the Million Hearts Initiative using innovative, integrated combinations of evidence-based programs, such as CHW models and electronic health record (EHR)-based clinical interventions for ethnically diverse communities.

## Core Research Project

The first core research project of the new NYU-CUNY PRC , **Project IMPACT (Implementing Million Hearts for Provider and Community Transformation)**, will build upon the Million Hearts Initiative to test the

efficacy, adoption, and impact of integrating a state-of-the-art CHW model with physician-level intervention models using EHR-based tools to improve hypertension control among South Asians in NYC and developing scalable models, working in close partnership with payors and their provider networks.

### **Special Interest Projects**

The NYU-CUNY PRC currently houses three Special Interest Projects (SIPs):

1. **Understanding the Barriers and Facilitators to Colorectal Cancer Screening among South Central Asian Immigrants in NYC**, which aims to use mixed methods to explore barriers and facilitators to screening, and the principles of social marketing to develop culturally tailored messaging to promote screening. (2014-2015)
2. **Workplace Health Research Network – Collaborating Centers**, which aims to create and conduct a pilot project to reach low wage and immigrant workers with a participatory workplace health program. (2014-2019)
3. **Managing Epilepsy Well – Collaborating Center**, which aims to adapt, test, and disseminate an epilepsy self-management intervention for Hispanic adults with epilepsy and depression. (2014-2019)

### **Other Research Projects**

The NYU-CUNY PRC is also leading the protocol development and evaluation of the **Harlem Community Health Worker Initiative (CHWI)**, a program that aims to improve the health outcomes of NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents in Harlem. The CHWI will work with community partners, CHWs, and residents to: (1) improve access to needed healthcare and social services, (2) improve management of existing chronic diseases, such as diabetes, asthma, and hypertension, (3) address risk factors for disease, such as physical inactivity and poor diet, and (4) build leadership and capacity to address health needs among community residents.

The **Family-Based Oral Health Promotion Program in the Sikh Community** is a unique collaboration between community partner UNITED SIKHS, the PRC, and the NYU College of Dentistry. UNITED SIKHS, a key partner organization on NYU PRC core research project, Project RICE, was one of only four recipients of an award in September 2012 from the DentaQuest Foundation's National Community Committee (NCC) Oral Health Initiative. The project addresses dental health promotion in Sikh South Asian communities in New York City and New Jersey.

### **Other key programmatic goals of the NYU-CUNY PRC are to:**

- a) Develop, disseminate and test a portfolio of CHW and EHR-based tools targeting Million Hearts goals for provider practices, practice networks, health care systems, and insurers;
- b) Provide technical assistance and subject matter expertise to our stakeholder network regarding the population health impact of chronic diseases, with a particular focus on hypertension and diabetes;
- c) Develop and implement training programs that build the capacity and leadership of public health and clinical practitioners to conduct evidence-based research and interventions using community-clinical linkage strategies.