

Location

Atlanta, Georgia

Populations of Focus

adults, children, people in rural areas

Topic Areas

tobacco use, physical activity, healthy eating, obesity, cancer prevention, epilepsy

“ EPRC has always prioritized research that is both meaningful and timely. I am excited to see how EPRC will manage the fast-changing needs of our community as we respond to a pandemic and its aftermath. I believe we are prepared for this evolution, and I look forward to learning how we can rise to meet the circumstances before us.”

JK Veluswamy

Community Representative
Horizons Community Solutions,
Community Advisory Board for
the EPRC



EPRC's work in south Georgia operates through a Community Advisory Board that represents over 15 organizations.

The [Emory Prevention Research Center \(EPRC\)](#) is one of 26 Prevention Research Centers (PRCs) supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the 2019–2024 funding cycle. Each PRC is funded to establish and maintain its center and to conduct a core research project. PRCs may receive supplemental funding to conduct additional research projects and activities.

EPRC's mission is to prevent cancer and other chronic diseases and to promote health equity in rural Georgia through community-engaged research. It works to improve the lives of Georgia residents by developing and testing innovative interventions, evaluating promising practices, and training health care practitioners on evidence-based practices to prevent cancer and other chronic diseases.

CORE RESEARCH

Each PRC uses a community-engaged approach to conduct one primary applied public health prevention research project called a core research project. Project activities include design, development, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination. PRCs use at least 50% of their CDC funding to conduct the project in partnership with communities.

Healthy Homes/Healthy Families

During the 2014–2019 funding cycle, EPRC worked with community partners in south Georgia to develop an intervention called [Healthy Homes/Healthy Families](#) and test it among patients of Federally Qualified Health Centers. The intervention uses coaches to help families change social and physical aspects of their home environments to make them more supportive of healthy eating and weight gain prevention.

Coaching was done through in-home visits and telephone calls and supported with two tools—a tailored Home Food Environment Profile and a menu of Healthy Actions. To assess the intervention, researchers conducted telephone interviews at various intervals. The assessment found that participants made significant changes to their home environment and food behaviors as a result of the intervention.

For the current funding cycle, EPRC's core research project expands the Healthy Homes/Healthy Families intervention by partnering with United Way 2-1-1 call centers in four Georgia cities: Albany, Columbus, Macon, and Atlanta. It focuses on residents in these cities who have previously called 2-1-1 for help with everyday challenges.

For the new project, all coaching is done through telephone calls and text messages, and the intervention is shortened from 16 weeks to 12 weeks. Researchers will assess whether the intervention will still be effective if it is delivered for a shorter time and only by telephone.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

PRCs may receive supplemental funding to work on additional research projects each funding cycle. These Special Interest Projects (SIPs) focus on a variety of health topics or gaps in scientific evidence. PRCs can also conduct additional research as part of SIP



Healthy Homes/Healthy Families helps families create a home food environment that promotes healthy eating and weight gain prevention.

[Thematic Research Networks](#), which are groups of PRCs working together on related health topics.

2021

Examining Approaches to Improve Care and Management of People with Lupus

This SIP project seeks to identify prevention research topics that can help researchers find new ways to improve the care and management of adults with lupus.

PRC Vaccine Confidence Network (PRC VCN)

In April 2021, CDC funded a 12-month award to all 26 PRCs to form the PRC VCN in support of the agency's [Vaccinate with Confidence](#) strategy for COVID-19. As part of this network, EPRC is examining vaccine hesitancy to find ways to promote vaccine confidence, increase vaccine uptake, and reduce disparities in 24 counties in southwest Georgia, focusing on non-Hispanic Black and rural residents. The goal is reduce the incidence of COVID-19 in the United States.

For its [Vax Up! Southwest Georgia project](#), EPRC will train “natural helpers” to deliver educational outreach, schedule vaccination appointments, follow up with community members, and document their work.

HIGHLIGHTED PUBLICATION

[Impact of improving home environments on energy intake and physical activity: a randomized controlled trial](#)



CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal Investigator

Michelle C. Kegler, DrPH
(EPRC coordinator)

Department

Rollins School of Public Health
of Emory University
Emory Prevention Research Center

Center Email

deborah.stephenson@emory.edu

For more information on EPRC and ways to get involved, visit [Emory Prevention Research Center](#).

2020

Effect of Survivorship Care Plans on Cancer Mortality

This SIP project surveys childhood and adolescent cancer survivors diagnosed before age 20 and treated at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The goal is to estimate how survivorship care plans affect survivors of all types of childhood cancers and from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Quantifying the Burden of Epilepsy Using Novel Data Sources

This SIP project estimates how epilepsy affects worker participation, quality of life, health care use, and outcomes among nursing home patients.

2019

Managing Epilepsy Well 2.0 (MEW) Network Coordinating Center

The [MEW network](#) works to improve the health and well-being of people living with epilepsy by developing self-management programs they can use. This multisite initiative combines research, evaluation, and program dissemination.

Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN) Member

As a member of [CPCRN](#), EPRC translates evidence-based cancer interventions and evaluates interventions designed to increase the rate of human papillomavirus vaccinations in southwest Georgia clinics.

Evaluating Community-Clinical Linkage Interventions in the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

This SIP project evaluates interventions used in CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. It includes a review of the implementation, cost, cost-effectiveness, and scalability of community and clinical links designed to increase screening completion rates in medically underserved women.

Assessing the Lifetime Economic Burden in Men with Metastatic Prostate Cancer

This SIP project assesses the cost of metastatic disease to determine the value of interventions to prevent, detect, and treat prostate cancer.

CDC Prevention Research Centers (PRCs) conduct innovative public health research at the community level. The PRC Program is a network of academic research centers in the United States that work with their communities to identify public health problems and develop, test, and evaluate solutions that can be widely shared and applied within the public health system. PRCs research a wide range of health topics and focus on populations experiencing health disparities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRC PROGRAM

Visit www.cdc.gov/prc or contact prcprogram@cdc.gov.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention