

PROFILE

Location

Madison, Wisconsin

Populations of Focus

women and children
experiencing health-limiting
social, environmental, or
economic conditions

Topic Areas

maternal depression, infant
development, community
health worker support and
preparedness, vaccine
confidence, translation of
evidence into practice



Interventions can help nurture mother-infant relationships in the first year, especially for mothers experiencing depression.

“As a PRC awardee with a focus on maternal and child health, we are excited to leverage UW-Madison’s research expertise and our PRC’s strong community partnerships to positively impact health and health equity for women, infants, and families most affected by the burden of health-limiting social, economic, and environmental conditions.”

Elizabeth Cox, MD, PhD
Center Director

The [University of Wisconsin-Madison Prevention Research Center](#) (UWPRC) 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 their center and to conduct a core research project. PRCs may receive supplemental funding to conduct additional research projects and activities.

UWPRC’s mission is to improve the health of women and families experiencing health-limiting social, economic, or environmental conditions. To accomplish this mission, it conducts high-quality, applied, health promotion and disease prevention research focused on health equity.

UWPRC partners with multidisciplinary academic researchers, public health practitioners, families, and community and government organizations. The goal is to develop a research and translation agenda that emphasizes the testing of policy and systems strategies in the CDC Health Impact Pyramid, which is designed to improve population health.

HIGHLIGHTED PUBLICATION

[Barriers to self-disclosing level of maternal care: what are Wisconsin hospitals worried about?](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal Investigator



Elizabeth Cox, MD, PhD

Department

Department of Pediatrics

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

Center Email

prc@wisc.edu

For more information on UWPRC and ways to get involved, visit [UW-Madison Prevention Research Center](#).

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.

Addressing Postpartum Depression in Wisconsin Home Visiting Programs

UWPRC's core research [project](#) for the 2019–2024 funding cycle adapts an intervention that has been proven to reduce symptoms of maternal depression and support infant attachment for use in home visiting programs. A pilot project is focusing on the effectiveness, dissemination, and implementation of a therapeutic approach designed to address depression in the postpartum period and support mother-infant and family relationships.

“We are fortunate to be able to refine a two-generation intervention focused on mother-infant and family relationships specifically for mothers experiencing depression in the first year,” said Roseanne Clark, PhD, co-principal investigator for UWPRC.

This project adds a Mother-Infant Therapy Group into federally funded home visiting programs in urban, rural, and tribal communities in Wisconsin. Pilot studies have shown that these groups can reduce depressive symptoms in mothers, while also strengthening the mother-infant relationship for healthy infant development.

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

2021

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, UWPRC is partnering with a member of its Community Advisory Board (Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program) to serve rural communities in the state. The goal to reduce the incidence of COVID-19 in the United States.

The center is using a community-based intervention that includes a message campaign featuring local champions—faith leaders, local business owners, and health care providers—and their personal stories with COVID-19 and vaccination. UWPRC's strategy also includes collaborating with partners to provide accessible, credible, and timely information about COVID-19, vaccines, and vaccination and “on the ground” outreach.

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