

PROFILE

Location

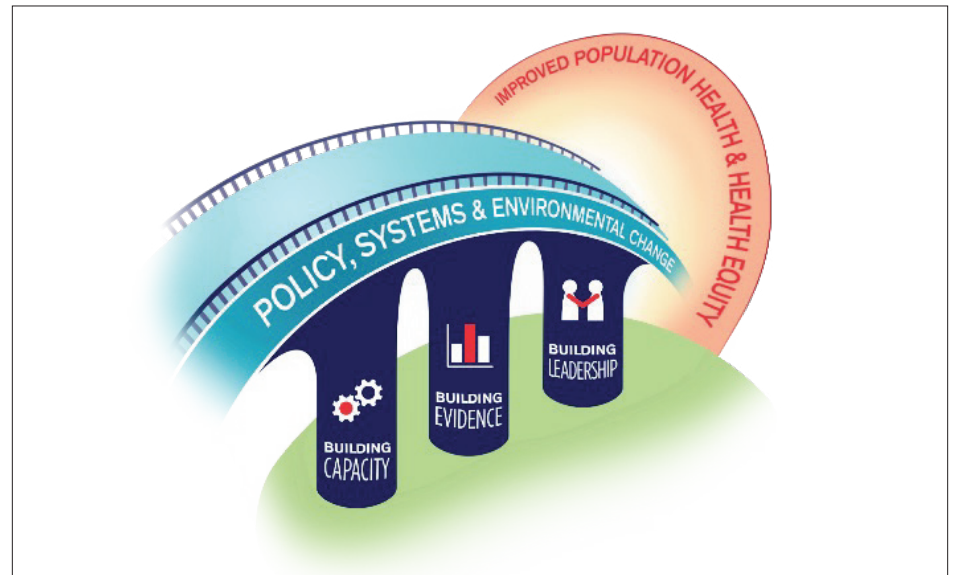
Chicago, Illinois

Populations of Focus

children, school-aged
children

Topic Areas

adolescent health, nutrition,
physical activity, high-risk
health behaviors



UIC P3RC builds capacity, evidence, and leadership to create policy, systems, and environmental changes to improve population health and health equity.

“The potential for the P3RC core research project to support CPS in supporting the ‘whole child’ and meeting the district’s health and wellness goals is what drives our project. Providing schools serving students of color in under-resourced areas of the city with much needed support is our goal. If we can prove the efficacy of the Healthy CPS Network Specialist role, it holds the potential for districtwide rollout that would affect hundreds of thousands of children.”

Jamie F. Chriqui, PhD

*Principal Investigator for the
P3RC core research project*

The [Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center](#) (P3RC) at the University of Illinois Chicago’s (UIC) School of Public Health 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.

P3RC’s mission focuses on improvements in population health and advancements in health equity through:

- Using evidence to promote policy, practice, systems, and environmental change.
- Working with partners to build capacity to identify and understand root causes of inequities.
- Supporting leaders to collectively advance policies and practices that improve population health and health equity.

“There needs to be a timely exchange between on-the-ground practitioners—who are often in the best position to lead or promote systems-level change in their communities—and the researchers studying interventions and analyzing policy,” said Christina Welter, DrPH, MPH, associate director for P3RC. “Practitioners also need more workforce development to help increase their readiness and capacity to use and build evidence in what they are doing.”



Addressing childhood obesity with a range of cost-effective strategies across a variety of settings can ensure that children have opportunities to eat healthy and be physically active.

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 CPS Network Initiative

P3RC is partnering with the Office of Student Health and Wellness (OSHW) in Chicago Public Schools (CPS) for its [core research project](#) for the 2019–2024 funding cycle. The goal of the project is to establish and test the impact of having a Healthy CPS Network Specialist assigned to support a CPS regional network of schools. CPS is the third largest public school districts in the country and one of the most diverse.

For this project, the specialist is assigned to one school network to provide tailored technical assistance and support to help the schools implement more than 50 federal, state, and district policies that are directly aligned with CDC's [Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child](#) model. P3RC researchers will review processes, outcomes, and impact evaluations of the specialist with the goal of documenting improvements in school and student health services that can be implemented across the CPS system.

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.

HIGHLIGHTED PUBLICATION

[State laws matter when it comes to district policymaking relative to the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Framework](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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For more information on P3RC and ways to get involved, visit [Prevention Research Center | Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center | University of Illinois Chicago \(uic.edu\)](#).

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, the P3RC is examining vaccine hesitancy to find ways to promote vaccine confidence, increase vaccine uptake, and reduce disparities among African American, Hispanic, Orthodox Jewish, and rural populations. The goal is to reduce the incidence of COVID-19 in the United States.

P3RC's strategy is to engage members from different affected communities to help shape research questions, collect and analyze data, and provide best practices on how to distribute study results. It hopes to strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations and public health departments through town halls, focus groups, surveys, community assessments, and environmental scans.

2019

Improving Cancer Survival and Reducing Treatment Variations with Protocols for Emergency Care (ICARE)

This SIP [study](#) seeks to improve outcomes for cancer survivors who receive care in emergency departments (EDs). It also seeks to reduce health disparities associated with decreased survivorship because of lack of compliance with post-cancer surveillance recommendations and guidelines. This project will use evidence-based strategies to assess the management of cancer patients seeking care in EDs. It will also place cancer navigators in EDs and open a new UI Health Cancer Survivorship clinic. The goal is to create a model of care that will be portable to other EDs in order to improve quality of life and overall care for cancer survivors.

Physical Activity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (PAPREN)

As the Coordinating Center, P3RC co-leads this [network](#) with the UMass Worcester Prevention Research Center. Currently, P3RC is leading an applied evaluation project to study changes in pedestrian-oriented zoning and land use policies over time across 2,300 US municipalities and counties. This project will also study the effect of zoning changes on recreational physical activity and sedentary behavior, mode of commuting to work, and pedestrian fatalities.

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