

## 20 Years of Progress



*“The Prevention Research Centers epitomize what CDC is all about when it comes to working with partners at the grassroots level to protect our nation’s health. Their efforts are resulting in the very information Americans need to choose safe and healthy lifestyles for themselves and their families.”*

—Julie Gerberding, MD, MPH,  
CDC Director and ATSDR  
Administrator



The Prevention Research Centers are a network of academic health centers, partner communities, and public health practitioners that conduct community-based participatory research to prevent disease and disability.

### 1981–1986

#### The Drive for Public Health Research

In the 1980s, public health leaders from around the nation called for a network of applied public health researchers who could provide the science behind public health programs. Congress answered this call in 1984 by authorizing the Department of Health and Human Services to select academic centers for this purpose, giving responsibility to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to manage the program.

### 1987–1997

#### Casting a Wide Net

Over the next decade, the number of Prevention Research Centers (PRCs) more than doubled and activities were expanded to diverse areas of the country, such as Appalachia and the Ozarks. Centers shared information and collaborated to form networks such as the Tobacco Network and the School Health Network. As the PRCs became more skilled in involving communities in their work, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) called on the PRCs to lead the community prevention component of the Women’s Health Initiative.

### 1998–2004

#### Creating Action Through Public Health Research

These past few years have been especially rewarding because of the communities working with the PRCs. The combined efforts in applied research have provided evidence for public health programs and have given people in many communities the skills and the means to lead healthy lives. Research from the centers contributed to passage of a law in Texas requiring schools to provide physical education classes, reimbursement from health plans for physical activity for seniors in Washington State, and recognition at the national level of a no-smoking program for teens in West Virginia. Centers in these and other states continue to lead the way in providing evidence for forward-thinking public health action.

### 2005 and Beyond

#### A Rich History and a New Beginning

After a recent competition process, a newly composed family of 33 PRCs has been selected. Embracing the commitment to create positive changes in communities, the PRCs are continuing to develop research that is relevant for communities and results in real changes for people all across the United States. In efforts to eliminate health disparities and create healthy communities, the PRCs will remain at the forefront in sharing knowledge and expertise in applied research for public health programs.

## Core Projects

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### Alabama

#### University of Alabama at Birmingham

Building community capacity for health in Alabama's Black Belt

### Arizona

#### University of Arizona

Reducing diabetes in communities on the U.S.-Mexico border

### California

#### San Diego State University

Increasing physical activity in Latino families around Tijuana

#### University of California at Berkeley

Improving health in California's Korean American community

#### University of California at Los Angeles

Promoting adolescent health in African American and Hispanic families

### Colorado

#### University of Colorado

Advancing healthy lifestyles in underserved Rocky Mountain communities

### Connecticut

#### Yale University

Addressing health disparities in rural and urban Connecticut

### Florida

#### University of South Florida

Using community-based prevention marketing for health promotion

### Georgia

#### Emory University

Reducing health disparities in rural southwest Georgia

#### Morehouse School of Medicine

Building community capacity to promote health in southeast Atlanta

### Illinois

#### University of Illinois at Chicago

Evaluating interventions to reduce diabetes in inner-city communities

### Iowa

#### University of Iowa

Helping communities in rural Iowa improve their residents' quality of life

### Kentucky

#### University of Kentucky

Controlling cancer in central Appalachia

### Louisiana

#### Tulane University

Changing the environment to increase physical activity in low-income New Orleans

### Maryland

#### The Johns Hopkins University

Integrating health promotion into existing programs for Baltimore's youths

### Massachusetts

#### Boston University

Improving the health and well-being of Boston's public housing residents

#### Harvard University

Preventing cancer in Massachusetts communities

### Michigan

#### University of Michigan

Examining social determinants of health in low-income Michigan counties

### Minnesota

#### University of Minnesota

Identifying best practices for adolescents' healthy development

### Missouri

#### Saint Louis University

Maintaining rural community coalitions to prevent chronic diseases

### New Mexico

#### University of New Mexico

Improving nutrition and physical activity among Navajo elders

### New York

#### State University of New York at Albany

Preventing chronic disease through community interventions

### Columbia University

Bridging the digital divide for health in Harlem

### University of Rochester

Understanding health risks among the deaf and hard of hearing

### North Carolina

#### The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Reducing obesity among ethnic minority women in rural North Carolina

### Oklahoma

#### University of Oklahoma

Promoting health and preventing disease among Native Americans

### Oregon

#### Oregon Health & Science University

Addressing vision and hearing loss in American Indian communities

### Pennsylvania

#### University of Pittsburgh

Promoting health and preventing disease among older adults

### South Carolina

#### University of South Carolina

Changing policies and environmental conditions to support physical activity in underserved communities

### Texas

#### University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Studying how adolescents' health choices affect their later lives

#### Texas A&M University

Preventing diabetes in underserved rural communities

### Washington

#### University of Washington

Sustaining physical activity among older adults

### West Virginia

#### West Virginia University

Improving health among rural teenagers

Fall 2004

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