
PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: CDC Chronic Disease Center

CDC Program Expands to Study Health Needs of Underserved Communities

Will Develop Strategies to Narrow Health Disparities

March 23, 2009—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is awarding more than \$25 million to support prevention research at academic institutions in 25 states. The recipients constitute CDC's Prevention Research Centers Program, which studies how people and their communities can avoid or counter the risks for chronic illnesses—such as heart disease, asthma, and diabetes.

The awards are for the first year of a five-year funding period that starts a new stage in the program's history and development. First authorized by Congress in 1984, the program is recognized for having advanced the field of participatory research in which researchers work hand in hand with communities at every research step.

“The Prevention Research Centers have reached more than 41 million people in 66 partner communities, some of which are the most underserved in the country,” said CDC Acting Director Richard E. Besser, MD. “By involving communities in designing and conducting research, the centers ensure that health strategies found to be effective can be readily applied where they are most needed.”

Two new centers will bring research to additional communities: Korean Americans and South Asian Americans in New York City at risk for diabetes, **and residents of underserved neighborhoods in Cleveland, Ohio, needing increased access to affordable and healthy foods.**

Five new centers will be funded to develop community partnerships and a pilot study for future research. The communities include Latino persons with diabetes in Worcester, Massachusetts; preschoolers in Columbus, Ohio, at risk for obesity as they grow up; African Americans in Prince George County, Maryland, where rates of sexually transmitted diseases are high; schoolchildren in the Arkansas Mississippi Delta lacking good nutrition and physical activity; and cardiovascular disease among people with serious mental illness in an area on the Vermont-New Hampshire border.

“Preventing chronic disease is critical to our nation's well-being and excessive health care costs,” said Janet Collins, Ph.D., director of CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. “Our investment in the Prevention Research Centers moves us closer to helping all Americans share the richness of good health.”

Chronic diseases account for 70% of all deaths in the United States, and almost half of all Americans live with at least one chronic condition. The medical care costs of people with chronic diseases account for more than 75% of the nation's \$2 trillion in medical care costs.

The state and host institution of the new set of Prevention Research Centers are given below. Information about the full scope of the program is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/prc>.

Category 1 centers (comprehensive organizational infrastructure, strong community relationships, and plans in place with community partners for a core research project)

Alabama:	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Arizona:	University of Arizona
California:	San Diego State University (with University of California at San Diego)
	University of California at Berkeley
	University of California at Los Angeles (with RAND Health)
Colorado:	University of Colorado at Denver
Connecticut:	Yale University
Florida:	University of South Florida
Georgia:	Emory University
	Morehouse School of Medicine
Kentucky:	University of Kentucky
Louisiana:	Tulane University
Maryland:	Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts:	Boston University
	Harvard University
Michigan:	University of Michigan
Minnesota:	University of Minnesota
Missouri:	Saint Louis University (with Washington University)
New Mexico:	University of New Mexico
New York:	Columbia University
	New York University School of Medicine
	University of Rochester
North Carolina:	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Ohio:	Case Western Reserve University
Oregon:	Oregon Health and Science University
South Carolina:	University of South Carolina
Texas:	Texas A&M University
	University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Washington:	University of Washington
West Virginia:	West Virginia University

Category 2 centers (will develop infrastructure and community relationships for a pilot study)

New Hampshire:	Dartmouth College
Ohio:	Ohio State University

Arkansas: University of Arkansas for Medical Services
Maryland: University of Maryland
Massachusetts: University of Massachusetts Medical School

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