



BRIDGES

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE P3RC

STUDYING EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS FOR VACCINE UPTAKE

The P3RC received new funding from the Prevention Research Centers and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Led by Manorama Khare, a UIC faculty affiliate and research associate professor at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford, and Emily Stiehl, a clinical assistant professor in the UIC School of Public Health's (SPH) Division of Health Policy Administration, the one-year grant will investigate the factors that influence a person's intention to vaccinate for COVID-19 and influenza. The project will collaborate with citizen scientists and community members to develop messages that promote vaccination among under-vaccinated or completely unvaccinated individuals. Trusted messengers will then deliver these messages in urban and rural settings.



STRENGTHENING ILLINOIS' PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), a recipient of the Public Health Infrastructure Grant from the CDC, has selected the P3RC to serve as a five-year academic partner to support the expansion and strengthening of the public health system and workforce in Illinois. The P3RC team, led by Associate Director Christina Welter, will leverage its experience and relationships across academia and public health practice to bring partners across Illinois together to assess current needs and create a shared vision for the future public health system.



The P3RC welcomes back Sarah Kerch as the assistant director for leadership, organizational change, and workforce development. Kerch, also a current UIC DrPH student, oversees the day-to-day project activities in collaboration with the P3RC team and IDPH. Sarah previously worked at the UIC SPH from 2013–2015 through funding from IDPH and CDC's Community Transformation Grant, supporting local health departments in improving chronic disease prevention in their communities through policy, systems, and environmental change.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Action For Healthy Kids Awards \$30 Million in Subgrants to 264 School Districts Nationwide



In August 2023, P3RC School Research and Translation Committee member [Action for Healthy Kids](#) partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as they invested nearly \$30 million to support school nutrition in 264 small and rural communities across the nation. The funding will support schools in reorganizing their food system structures through staff training, kitchen updates, re-design of food preparation and service spaces, and other supports for school nutrition professionals.

P3RC CONTRIBUTES TO LAUNCH OF LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR CPS STAFF

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) has launched a professional learning community in response to conversations with CPS school staff and data collected through the [Healthy CPS Network Initiative](#), the core research project at the P3RC. The professional learning community will support all 24 schools served by the CPS Network specialist, who has been providing wellness support to the Network for over a year. Membership in the professional learning community will include five meetings during the 2023-2024 academic year, compensation for involvement, and opportunities to discuss common challenges, share lessons learned, and partnerships to improve key health and wellness policy compliance indicators.



ILLINOIS PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS HOLD FIRST MEMBER CONFERENCE WITH P3RC SUPPORT



In September 2023, the [Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators](#) (IAPHA) held their first-ever conference in East Peoria. The P3RC supported the conference through funding, technical assistance, and kicked off the conference with a workshop on the [Learning Agenda for Systems Change](#). The IAPHA Core Planning team tailored the conference to address their membership's professional development and learning needs. National speakers gave trainings with topics ranging from legislation to leadership and administrators engaged with each other and shared innovative ideas to bring back to their counties.

Hillary Aggertt, conference core planning team member, shared photos and highlights from the conference in a P3RC [blog post](#). In addition to the IAPHA member conference, the P3RC also partnered with the [Region V Public Health Training Center](#) and IAPHA to hold two virtual trainings on trauma-informed supervision for LHD administrators and mid-level management staff.

BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY FOR POLICY, PRACTICE, SYSTEMS, & ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

P3RC Funds Applied Practice Experiences for MPH Students

This summer, the P3RC provided funding to three MPH students completing their Applied Practice Experiences (APEs) with a focus on either a policy, systems, or environmental (PSE) change; promotion of a sustainable change; or on addressing social determinants of health.



Utilizing Social Determinants of Health to Define Goals and Advance Health Equity in North Chicago

Katie O'Connell's placement at the [North Chicago Think Tank](#) propelled Chicagoland organizations' efforts to align health equity initiatives with social determinants of health. Read her blog, [Organizing for Collaborative Health Equity in North Chicago](#).



Supporting Pediatricians in Expansion of Housing Resources

Swati Jain provided support for the [Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics](#), which works to improve children and pregnant persons' housing and health resource access in Illinois. Learn more: [Championing the Expansion of Equitable Housing Resources in Chicago](#).



Building New Systems for the Community Health Worker Sector

Read the blog, [The Future of Community Health Worker Certification in Illinois](#), authored by Anna Whelan. Whelan interned with the [UI Cancer Center](#) and worked toward implementing new policy changes related to community health workers.

Blog Posts from P3RC Seed Funding Recipients

The P3RC provides limited funding for UIC SPH faculty pilot projects related to policy, practice, systems, and environmental (PPSE)-oriented research.

➤ **CLICK EACH TITLE BELOW TO READ BLOG POSTS BY FUNDED INVESTIGATORS**

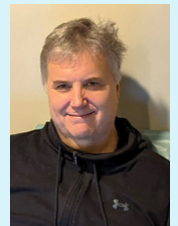
Collaborating with Latino Families to Adapt an Early Childhood Developmental Intervention

[Jessica Rothstein](#), PhD, MSPH, a clinical assistant professor in Community Health Sciences, is working with Latino families served by Chicago-based [Esperanza Health Centers](#) to adapt a widely used parenting intervention to meet needs of Spanish-speaking families.



Determining Risk of Cancer Risk Through Residential Histories

[Garth Rauscher](#), PhD, MPH, an associate professor in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and faculty from other UIC colleges are collaborating on a project to link as many as 75,000 patients to their previous residential histories to study the role of cumulative, longer-term exposures on cancer risk.



Expanding Equity in Food and Nutrition Assistance Workforce

[Yuka Asada](#), PhD, RD, is a clinical assistant professor in Community Health Sciences. Her collaboration with the [Arizona Department of Health Services](#) highlights the barriers to hiring and retaining providers for the nationwide child and family nutrition programs.



P3RC PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles, Research Briefs and Fact Sheets

Nutrition

- Leider J, Pipito AA, Sandoval Camacho L, Gupta R, Knapp M, Fuster M, Powell LM. Default Beverage Offerings with Kids' Meals across Online Ordering Platforms for Fast-Food and Full-Service Restaurants in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Research Brief No. 131. Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center, University of Illinois Chicago. Chicago, IL. September 2023. doi: 10.25417/uic.24477169.
- Marinello S, Powell LM, Falbe J. Neighborhood Sociodemographic Characteristics and Healthfulness of Store Checkouts in Northern California. Prev Med Rep. 2023 Aug 22;35:102379. doi: 10.1016/j.pmedr.2023.102379.
- Marinello S, Falbe J, Solar SE, Powell LM. Price Promotions of Foods and Beverages Sold at Food Store Checkouts. Research Brief No. 130. Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center, University of Illinois Chicago. Chicago, IL. June 2023. doi: 10.25417/uic.24800097.
- Falbe J, Marinello S, Wolf EC, Solar SE, Schermbeck RM, Pipito AA, Powell LM. Food and Beverage Environments at Store Checkouts in California: Mostly Unhealthy Products. Curr Dev Nutr. 2023 April; 7(6):100075. doi: 10.1016/j.cdnut.2023.100075.
- Powell LM, Leider J, Pipito AA, Moran A. Evaluation of Short-Term Changes in Fast-Food Restaurant Online Kids' Meal Beverage Offerings Following a State-Level Healthy Beverage Default Policy. Curr Dev Nutr. 2023 April;7(4):100045. doi: 10.1016/j.cdnut.2023.100045.

School Health and Wellness

- Jarpe-Ratner E, Bloedel A, Little D, DiPaolo M, Belcher K, Mangiaracina M, Marshall B. Evaluation of a Mandatory Professional Development on Supporting Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender-Nonconforming Students in Chicago Public Schools. Health Promot Pract. 2023 Jun 27. doi: 10.1177/15248399231182161. Epub ahead of print.
- Jarpe-Ratner E, Cleary M, Chiqui JF. The Role of Wellness Teams in Promoting Health and Wellness Implementation Strategies in Elementary Schools in Chicago. J Sch Health. 2023 May;93(5):402-410. doi: 10.1111/josh.13309.

Leading, Learning, and Engaging Communities for Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change

- COVID-19 Response, Recovery, and Resiliency Initiative: October 2022 – March 2023 Report. Cook County Department of Public Health, Forest Park, IL. August 2023.
- Welter C, Davis S, Elnicki J, Kulik PKG, Lloyd LM, Tenney M, Todd Barrett K, Rose B, Walter C. Public Health Learning Agenda for Systems Change Toolkit: National Pilot Evaluation Results. J Public Health Manag Pract. 2023 Mar-Apr 01;29(2):202-209. doi: 10.1097/PHH.0000000000001654.

OTHER PRODUCTS

Book Release

P3RC Associate Director Christina Welter and colleagues have released *Building Strategic Skills for Better Health*. This textbook is a professional primer to develop leadership, management, and advocacy skills to transform public health work.

Learning Agenda for Systems Change: Video and Blog



Use of the Learning Agenda, a tool that draws on learning to impact systems change, continues to spread! Earlier this year, the Public Health Training Center Network (PHTC) created a video summarizing the toolkit's process, while Christina Welter, DrPH, authored a blog on the agenda for the Region V Training Center.