



# POP HEALTH CENTRAL

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## POPULATION BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN ACTION

### ARRIVE Together: A Qualitative Process Evaluation of the New Jersey State Police Co-responding Pilot Program

*Contributing authors: Marian Passannante (Professor and Associate Dean for Educational Program Development and Global Programs, Rutgers School of Public Health), Perry Halkitis (Dean and Professor of Biostatistics and Urban-Global Public Health, Rutgers School of Public Health), and Joye Anestis (Associate Professor, Rutgers School of Public Health Department of Health Behavior, Society, and Policy)*

Law enforcement personnel are often first to respond to calls involving behavioral health emergencies. However, encounters with law enforcement are more dangerous and lethal for people with behavioral health conditions. Co-responding models, wherein law enforcement and behavioral health professionals respond to

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calls together, are among the top programs developed to improve response to behavioral health crises. One such program is called [ARRIVE Together](#) (Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation), which was piloted in Cumberland County in December 2021. This program pairs a trooper with a mental health screener in an unmarked vehicle to respond to 9-1-1 calls relating to mental or behavioral health crises.

The Rutgers School of Public Health (SPH) conducted a process evaluation of the ARRIVE Together program, with support from the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General, The New Jersey Department of Human Services, and the Cumberland County Guidance Center. The SPH Evaluation Team included Marian Passannante (Professor, Biostatistics and Epidemiology), Joye C. Anestis (Associate Professor, Department of Health Behavior, Society, & Policy), Perry N. Halkitis (Dean and Hunterdon Professor of Public Health & Health Equity and Distinguished Professor of Biostatistics & Epidemiology and Urban-Global Public Health), Alana Cordeiro (DrPH student, SPH) and Melissa J. Lanman (Masters student at the Rutgers School of Social Work).

The current study evaluates piloting this co-responding model for approaching behavioral health crisis calls in the state of New Jersey. Semi-structured interviews were conducted following 10 consecutive encounters (from February through March 2022). Qualitative data consisted of three interviews per encounter: individual interviews with each team member and an interview with the dyad together. Transcripts were transcribed and thematically analyzed by two trained researchers independently. Once thematically analyzed, team members determined a consensus and developed a SWOT analysis report. A thematic analysis produced six major themes: communication, staffing, training, resources, community outreach, and deployments with minors. Co-responding teams felt encounters were successful but offered suggestions for improvement for the project's continued success. Sample size and the brief follow-up window were the most limiting factors. The pilot program took place in a rural, predominately White community. Further research should extend to urban and suburban communities and communities of color. Monitoring disparities, inequities, and racism is needed for outcome measurement comparisons. Future research should also explore the after-response affects including accessibility to follow-up care. While the program was deemed successful, team members offered recommendations around six major themes for continued improvement.

## Impact of the Rutgers Interdisciplinary Opioid Trainers

*Contributing author: Kelley Hamilton (Health Educator, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Division of Addiction Psychiatry)*

In 2021, more than 106,000 drug overdose deaths were recorded in the United States (U.S.), a 15% increase from 2020.<sup>1</sup> Of these, around 75% of those involved opioids. In the U.S., the opioid epidemic is a significant public health crisis affecting almost everyone. Medications for Opioid

Use Disorder (MOUD) play a crucial role in the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and are demonstrated to save lives. MOUDs, such as methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone, are considered the gold standard in OUD treatment. These medications work to help alleviate withdrawal symptoms, reduce cravings, and aid individuals in long-term abstinence. Despite evidence of their efficacy, only about 15% of eligible people with OUD receive them, leaving a treatment gap of 85%.<sup>2</sup> Stigma and misconceptions contribute to this reduced utilization of MOUD.

To educate the population of New Jersey about MOUD, the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (NJ DHMAS) and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Division of Addiction Psychiatry, partnered to create the Rutgers Interdisciplinary Opioid Trainers (RIOT) program. Since its inception in 2019, RIOT has trained 204 graduate students in the health sciences at Rutgers University on Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), the opioid epidemic, and concepts of substance use disorders. RIOT brings together Rutgers University graduate students from various fields, including medicine, pharmacy, psychology, social work, and public health. Student volunteers are trained by Dr. Jill Williams to deliver free educational presentations on MOUD and the opioid epidemic to various community organizations throughout New Jersey. The RIOT community presentations are 60 minutes long and held live online via Zoom or in-person.

To date, the program has reached more than 1,950 community members with our presentation on the Opioid Crisis and MOUD. RIOT has been effective in meeting its goals of increasing knowledge acquisition and improving attitudes among

The logo for the Rutgers Interdisciplinary Opioid Trainers (RIOT) program. It features the letters "RIOT" in a large, bold, serif font. The letter "R" is red, while the letters "I", "O", and "T" are black.

Rutgers Interdisciplinary Opioid Trainers

students and the greater community. An evaluation study revealed significant increases in knowledge and positive attitudes about MOUD in community audience members and was published in the American Journal on Addictions.<sup>3</sup> RIOT plays a vital role in addressing one of the most pressing public health challenges by empowering students and community members with knowledge on the opioid crisis. Training a diverse range of participants, RIOT promotes a comprehensive and compassionate response to the opioid crisis and OUD treatment.

To register for a free RIOT presentation, contact [addictionpsychiatry@ubhc.rutgers.edu](mailto:addictionpsychiatry@ubhc.rutgers.edu), call 732-235-4341, or visit our website at [www.RURIOT.org](http://www.RURIOT.org).

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## **PROMOTING CAREERS IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES**

Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) conducted various programs this summer with opportunities for high school students to explore the large range of career opportunities in the health sciences. Among these programs are the Institute for Health Summer Research Internship, the School of Public Health PHocus (Public Health: Outbreaks, Communities, and Urban Studies) Program, and the Rutgers Health Service Corps PHOENIX Program (Population Health Outreach and Education for Next generation Impact and eXcellence). Learn more about how each program established an environment for learning and engagement with health professionals and enabled students to gain hands-on experiences by contributing to ongoing programs, projects, and service efforts in population health, public health, and research.

### **Rutgers Institute for Health's 2023 Summer Research Internship Kicks Off**

*Contributing author: Nicole Swenarton (Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research)*



IFH Summer Research Internship Forum with Dr. Joel Cantor and the NJ Population Health Cohort Study team

After receiving over 100 applications for the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research (IFH) Summer Research Internship Program, 11 students were selected to participate in the 10-week program. The students, hailing from Rutgers University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Princeton University, and UCLA, were paired with faculty members from the Institute for Health, Rutgers Global Health Institute, and the Office of Population Health and worked on research projects with their mentors throughout the summer, gaining hands-on experience and valuable mentorship.

Students and mentors gathered for hybrid forums where Rutgers faculty members discussed their research careers and shared tips and tools for success. Pictured here is one of the forums led by Dr. Joel Cantor and

the NJ Population Health Cohort Study team. The program culminated in a final meeting with the interns, mentors, and other faculty and staff throughout IFH on August 21, where students presented their work and discussed what they have learned throughout the program.

The following are short bios on the IFH summer research interns and their focus projects throughout this summer:

- **Saige Marie Addison**, mentored by [Dr. Udydul Haque](#), analyzed data and prepared a manuscript focused on the Urban Heat Island project.
- **Atharva Bhusari**, mentored by [Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed](#), worked on artificial intelligence and machine learning approaches to predict cardiovascular disease.
- **John Celona**, mentored by [Dr. Michelle Chen](#), analyzed data and conducted a literature review for studies in digital health and neuropsychology.
- **Nathalia Gomez**, mentored by [Dr. Ethan Halm](#) and the [Office of Population Health](#), provided research support to the breast cancer screening study at University Hospital in Newark and RWJ University Hospital in New Brunswick.
- **Sharvari Kolte**, mentored by [Dr. Darina Petrovsky](#), assisted in conducting research studies focused on older adults with cognitive impairment, community members, care partners, government officials, and experts.
- **Daisy Pelaez-Diaz**, mentored by [Dr. Carolyn Sartor](#), supported manuscript preparation for a large-scale study of cultural and environmental influences on substance use in Black, Latinx, and White youth.
- **David Prilutsky**, developed a population health curriculum for the Rutgers Health Services Corps (mentored by Dr. Ethan Halm) and worked on the Center for State Health Policy integrated Population Health Data annual report (mentored by [Dr. Joel Cantor](#) and [Margaret Koller](#)).
- **Karolin Wadie**, mentored by [Kathryna Corpuz](#) and [Mary O'Dowd](#) and the Office of Population Health, provided research support for a Student Health HPV prevention initiative.
- **Jay Xu**, mentored by the [Rutgers Center for Health Services Research](#), worked with datasets to help develop a comprehensive understanding of community-led drivers of health outcomes and health care disparities.
- **Amber Yuill**, mentored by [Dr. Elizabeth Luth](#), collected and analyzed data from hospice clinicians and family caregivers of persons living with dementia and developed reports based on the data.
- **Yuyang Zhu**, mentored by [Dr. Yanping Jiang](#), assisted in conducting studies focused on neighborhood and social influences on wellbeing and physical health of older Chinese immigrants.

## PHocus: A Summer Experience for High School Students (Public Health: Outbreaks, Communities, and Urban Studies)

*Contributing authors: Laura Liang (Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Rutgers School of Public Health) and Marian R. Passannante (Associate Dean for Educational Program Development and Global Programs & Professor for the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology)*

The Rutgers School of Public Health developed PHocus (Public Health: Outbreaks, Communities, and Urban Studies) to introduce high school students to the interdisciplinary field of public health, as well as to promote population and individual health. The objectives of the PHocus program were to: 1) enhance high school students' science literacy and health literacy skills using public health as the context for learning, 2) provide an opportunity for participants to interact with public health professionals and researchers, 3) ensure that participants become aware of a variety of public health careers, and 4) teach participants steps they can take to improve their own health.

During each full week session, students participated in a variety of experiences, such as mock outbreaks, hands-on population health and community disease activities, a field trip to a farm, and conversations with public health researchers and practitioners. Each day focused on a different aspect of public health, such as: building an understanding of epidemiology; exploring urban and global health issues, including environmental health issues and a Global Health Fair; examining nutrition and food systems; discovering public health careers; and exploring emerging public health issues.

Developed and led by Laura Liang, DrPH (a health educator), and Marian Passannante, PhD (an epidemiologist), PHocus instruction involved active learning in large groups coupled with small group activities which makes the program engaging for students entering high school through recent high school graduates. The Rutgers School of Public Health hosted week-long PHocus sessions

in the summers of 2018 and 2019, at both the school's Piscataway, and Newark, New Jersey locations. PHocus was offered remotely in 2021 and again in person at both the Piscataway and Newark locations this summer (2023). The Newark sessions targeted recruitment from high schools with underserved, minority, and/or economically disadvantaged students, and tuition for these students was supported through external funding.

Since the 2018 PHocus Summer Experiences, 224 students have participated in these one-week sessions, representing over 100 high schools. Participants rate the experience very

highly; on a 4-point scale (1=strongly disagree; 4= strongly agree), the median score for the program being a worthwhile experience was 4.0. When asked about how they intend to change their habits and/or behaviors as a result of PHocus, one student noted "I plan to do more community outreach regarding public health because it starts with kids like me to make a difference for a healthier lifestyle." The Rutgers School of Public Health Faculty, staff, and students, as well as external stakeholders, eagerly volunteer to be part of the program, suggesting that this educational program can be reproduced at other schools and programs of public health.



PHocus students along with Dr. Laura Liang and Dr. Marian Passannante

## Launch of the Rutgers Health Service Corps High School Summer Program - PHOENIX

*Contributing author: Jack Hemphill (Associate Program Manager, Office of Clinical and Health Affairs/Population Health); Ethan Halm (Vice Chancellor for Population Health, Office of Clinical and Health Affairs/Population Health); Humaira Chaudhry (Chair and Chief of Service, Radiology, New Jersey Medical School); Vince Silenzio (Professor, Department of Urban-Global Public Health, Rutgers School of Public Health)*

The Rutgers Health Service Corps recently launched its inaugural high school summer program, named PHOENIX (Population Health Outreach and Education for Next generation Impact and eXcellence), with the aim of introducing high school students to the health professions, population health, and community service.

From July 24th to July 28th, 2023, 16 rising New Jersey high school juniors and seniors participated in the program at the Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research (IFH). Leading the program were Dr. Humaira Chaudhry, Chair of Radiology at New Jersey Medical School, and Jack Hemphill, Associate Program Manager in the Rutgers Office of Population Health.

The program kicked off on Day 1 with a health professions panel discussing the many diverse careers in healthcare including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, and public health. Additionally, Dr. Vince Silenzio, a professor at the Rutgers School of Public Health, presented an overview on public and population health.

Day 2 was devoted to learning about social determinants of health (SDOH) and community service. The students did a walking tour of New Brunswick and volunteered at the Elijah's Promise Community Food Kitchen where they prepared meals for those facing food insecurity. They also participated in a population health and SDOH jeopardy game led by IFH college summer research interns.

On Day 3, the participants visited the Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, where they did a live immersive, team simulation exercise of a patient having a severe allergic reaction. Led by Les Barta, the Director of the Simulation Technology Program, the students performed CPR, assembled medications, and accessed just-in-time allergic reaction treatment information. Dr. Donna Feudo, Associate Dean for Experiential Education and Clinical Affairs, also led a session discussing the School of Pharmacy's COVID-19 vaccination efforts.



PHOENIX students and program leaders, Jack Hemphill and Dr. Humaira Chaudhry, at Elijah's Promise for their community service trip

Day 4 featured workshops that equipped the students with crucial skills for building resumes and excelling in interviews, led by Dr. Humaira Chaudhry. They also received advice on navigating the college admissions process from Emmet Halm, a Harvard student and college counseling company founder. Dr. Ethan Halm, Vice Chancellor for Population Health, shared insights from his career journey and presented on careers in medicine, population health and healthcare research.

Day 5 was dedicated to a group scenario in which students acted as health educators, creating educational YouTube videos on population health and social determinants of health, mental health, and vaping. These videos will be part of the Office of Population Health's growing collection of brief, digital media health promotion materials and served as another lasting achievement during the program. The closing ceremony included remarks from Dr. Humaira Chaudhry and the presentation of certificates to the students with their parents in attendance. A particularly remarkable moment was when one of the students presented a moving poem on health equity, which can be viewed [here](#).

Feedback on the program has been overwhelmingly positive with 94% of students rating the program as excellent, with the one outlier describing it as 'very good.' Most participants expressed a desire for the program to last even longer. The students' knowledge about health professions, population health, public health, social determinants of health, community service and the Rutgers Health Service Corps increased substantially. Furthermore, every student felt the program increased their interest in pursuing a health professions career and in engaging in future community service. The hands-on experiences at Elijah's Promise Community Food Kitchen and the School of Pharmacy simulation event were particularly highlighted as enriching and unforgettable.

Upon completing the PHOENIX program, each student became an official member of the Rutgers Health Service Corps. In the upcoming year, they will have opportunities to engage in activities that contribute to the improvement of population health. The Rutgers Health Service Corps envisions that the PHOENIX program will extend well beyond this summer, creating a legacy by nurturing future public and population health leaders, empowering them to make a lasting impact in their communities. You can view a montage of photos from the program [here](#).

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWS

### Clearing the Air: Raising Awareness on Air Quality and Health Effects

*Contributing author: Karolin Wadie (BS/MPH Candidate, Institute for Health Summer Research Intern)*

In recent weeks, air quality alerts have been a prominent topic in daily news reports. On June 8, 2023, major U.S. cities reported "hazardous" air quality indices (AQI) over 300, due to major wildfires. These air pollution episodes have serious implications for individual and population health. An interview with [Dr. Robert Laumbach](#) (a researcher and physician trained in family, occupational, and environmental medicine and currently an Associate Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health and Justice at the Rutgers School of Public Health) provided more information on this topic.



Dr. Laumbach discussed the impact of poor air quality on human health and the importance of proper health communication with a focus on wildfires. Remote fires, like the recent fires in Canada, results in widespread air pollution because of a complex mixture of chemical compounds formed by incomplete combustion during wildfires. The smoke releases fine particulate matter (PM 2.5; particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter), which can penetrate deep into the lungs and lead to respiratory and cardiovascular problems. Air pollution may also be associated with many other adverse health effects including lower birth weight, declines in cognitive function, and neurodegenerative diseases.

Predicting the occurrence and effects of wildfires is challenging. The movement of smoke and its impact on air quality is also difficult to predict accurately beyond 1 or 2 days. While the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides daily air quality forecasts, disseminating this

information to the public remains a challenge. For example, each summer, New Jersey experiences several National Ambient Air Quality Standard exceedance days for ozone pollution. Although daily air quality forecasts are readily available on EPA's [website](#), many people may not be aware of "regular" air pollution problems and are only made aware of unusual events covered by news outlets. Dr. Laumbach emphasized the importance of educating healthcare professionals and community groups to help vulnerable populations – such as asthma patients, older adults, and children – to understand the risks and take appropriate measures to reduce exposure.

Individuals should be aware of personal interventions to reduce exposure to outdoor air pollution (e.g., reducing outdoor physical activities and using air cleaners) and the importance of balancing and tailoring interventions to individual needs and circumstances. EPA recommendations should also be reviewed to determine the best course of action to take based on the AQI categories. It is also important to recognize differences in the recommendations for sensitive groups like people with asthma, other lung diseases, heart disease, pregnant women, young children, and older people, compared to the general population.

### Food for Thought

In the interview with Dr. Laumbach, he discusses how information on air quality is constantly being updated and is available to the public on the EPA website.

Here are some questions that we may want to consider moving forward:

- How can information sharing to the public be improved?
- What policies are needed to ensure accurate and beneficial information reaches the public?
- What steps can and should be taken to address the disparity in environmental health communications?

For more information on this topic, check out the next two sections, "Reading Recommendations" and "Listening List," which includes related articles and podcasts.

## RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

**Personal Interventions to Reduce Exposure to Outdoor Air Pollution:** These researchers present evidence regarding the balance of benefits and potential harms of different personal interventions for reducing exposure to outdoor air pollution. Some methods of interventions that are discussed in this paper are staying indoors, installing air cleaner, limiting physical activity, and face masks. While these interventions have their benefits, there needs to be careful consideration about intended consequences or harms.

**Communicating the health risks of wildfire smoke exposure: Health literacy considerations of public health campaigns:** Communication is an important way to inform and protect the public about health-related topics or issues, including the effects of wildfire smoke exposure. This paper takes on a communication lens to assess the level of clarity and accessibility of educational materials that cover the health effects of wildfires. Using the Centers for Disease Control's Clear Communications Index, the author found that only 32% of the materials received a passing score.

## LISTENING LIST



**Global Environmental Health Chat:** Produced by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), this podcast explores a variety of related environmental health topics ranging from indigenous fire practices to mitigate wildfire intensity to country-specific impacts of air pollution, climate change, and health.



**Environmental Health Chat:** Hosted by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), this podcast's episodes explore the impact of environmental exposures on our health and how researchers have worked with community groups to better understand and address these environmental health issues.

## CONSORTIUM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Here are some recent accomplishments and programs from our Consortium members.

### University Hospital Newark is Recognized for the NJ Crime Victim's Rights Award

*Contributing author: Colette Barrow Adams (Executive Director, Community and Population Health), Michael Ordonez (Program Manager, Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program), and Cathy Choy (Program Coordinator, Trauma Recovery Center)*

University Hospital's Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) and Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) have been recognized for their efforts in supporting victims of violent crimes with the Crime Victims' Rights Award from the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General's Department of Law and Public Safety.



HVIP and TRC, both housed within the Department of Community and Population Health (CPH) at University Hospital, were awarded as the only co-located HVIP and TRC in the State of New Jersey. The teams review the list of patients who present to the Emergency Department after experiencing victimization due to violent crimes and assign them to either HVIP or TRC, depending on the injury and patient history.

The HVIP team consists of Community Health Workers, a Social Worker and a Program Manager who approach the patient at the bedside following the traumatic event and offer immediate case management-based intervention, utilizing trauma-informed best practice guidelines. Since 2017, HVIP has enrolled nearly 700 clients, securing safe discharge, coordinating their medical care, addressing identified social determinants of health, referring them to social resources, completing the Victims of Crime Compensation application, and assisting with additional services such as relocation.

In 2021, Pop Health launched TRC, which provides trauma-informed mental health services coordinated by a multi-disciplinary team that includes a Psychiatrist, Psychologist, and Licensed Social Workers. TRC staff provide compassionate wrap-around care to support the most sensitive clients with clinical case management, individual and group therapy, and medication management.

Since both HVIP and TRC are housed within CPH, it is the only HVIP/TRC hospital collaborative model in New Jersey. The program has aided nearly 300 survivors of violence through advocacy, mental health counseling, and non-traditional assistance during acute traumatic crises.



This picture shows the teams that received the award alongside Dr. Colette Barrow Adams (Executive Director, Community and Population Health).

- **The HVIP Team** [includes Michael Ordonez, Program Manager; Ikea Vandross, Social Worker; Hermera Blanks, Community Health Worker; Curtis Langley, Community Health Worker; and Diego Velecela Vizhnay, Community Health Worker, along with the Newark Community Street Team (NCST) staff, which includes Najlaa Shareef, Director NCST HVIP (not pictured); Steven Bethea, Community Health Worker; and Crystal McCain, Community Health Worker]
- **The TRC Team** (includes Cathy Choy, LCSW, Program Coordinator; Shakia Wyche, Social Worker; Taira Jean-Bart, Social Worker; Minh Tran, Data Analyst; and Ruth Nicolas, Administrative Assistant)
- **Patricia Teffenhart** (Executive Director, Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance (VIVA) at the Department of Law and Public Safety)
- **Steven Campos** (Director, Office of Violence Intervention and Prevention)

## On the Road with the new Cancer Screening Mobile Health Unit: Life Saver

*Contributing author: Monica Townsend (Program Director, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence, Community Outreach & Engagement/ ScreenNJ)*

In November 2022, [ScreenNJ](#) launched its first comprehensive mobile health unit, known as [LifeSaver](#), to provide equitable preventative cancer screening throughout New Jersey. Risk reduction and cancer screening is effective in reducing cancer incidence, morbidity, mortality, and cancer burden. This mobile health unit delivers services directly to people in their communities to help improve access to care while easing their burden of care. LifeSaver can reach a broad range of patients and help reduce gaps in care often faced by marginalized communities. LifeSaver provides no-cost cancer screenings and care coordination services to the uninsured and medically underserved across New Jersey.

Community engagement is essential for providing services and helping to ensure efforts respond to the needs and priorities of the communities ScreenNJ serves. Through partnerships with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), NJ Cancer

Education and Early Detection (CEED) agencies, community organizations, and others, ScreenNJ has been able to realize equitable transformation reaching large segments of communities. Through the support of the Patient Navigation Team and Community Outreach Team, patients receive navigation to supportive services, including education and related resources. People's experience with LifeSaver is connected to addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) and helping to ease barriers they may have to accessing health services, which can discourage patients from engagement with providers.

The LifeSaver mobile health unit team is led by Program Director Monica Townsend, MPA, BS, Clinical Lead, Ken Gyan, MSN, APN-C, FNP with oversight from Dr. Miriam F. Eskander, MD, MPH a surgical oncologist and Chief Medical Officer for this program. Mr. Gyan is a nurse practitioner and has significant experience in diverse health care settings. Through administering cancer risk reduction and screening services on the mobile health unit, he is able to help reduce the cancer burden in our state and shape interventions to help address disparities. "I am ecstatic about the opportunity to render comprehensive and time-sensitive services through cutting-edge technology, experienced and trained medical staff, and, most importantly, compassionate care with a warm smile," notes Gyan.

The LifeSaver will offer the following health care and cancer screening services around seven cancer focus areas: prostate, lung, colorectal, breast, HPV/cervical, skin, and genetic hereditary counseling.

#### **Services include:**

- History and physical examinations (e.g., patient health history, past illness, examination for signs of disease)
- Familial cancer risk assessment
- Laboratory testing (e.g., HPV screening, prostate specific antigen testing, stool testing such as FIT)
- HPV vaccinations
- Imaging procedures
- Referrals and authorization for mammograms and low dose CT screening
- Patient navigation for care coordination
- Translation support
- Education and outreach
- Supportive services to address social determinants of health (SDOH)

#### **LifeSaver's key features include:**

- Two full exam rooms
- Designated sink area
- Full bathroom
- Wheelchair lift
- Television for patient education
- Integrated wall vital sign machine panel
- Wireless connectivity for EHR access
- Soundproof privacy doors
- Outdoor awning for patient care, education, and registration

The LifeSaver took to the road this summer starting with activities in New Brunswick for the annual Juneteenth Celebration and in Trenton at Union Baptist Church for its Men's Health Breakfast highlighting prostate cancer awareness, education, and screening.

**Look for LifeSaver soon in a neighborhood near you! If interested in collaborating with ScreenNJ for your next outreach event, please complete our [mobile health unit request form](#). Feel free to visit this [website](#) for more information and check out our videos. Remember, "the best cancer protection is prevention and early detection."**

**If you are a patient or provider looking for assistance in accessing cancer screening services or connecting your patients to cancer screening services, please contact our ScreenNJ Patient Navigation team at [patientnavigation@cinj.rutgers.edu](mailto:patientnavigation@cinj.rutgers.edu) and 833-727-3665 today!**



Monica Townsend, Program Director, and Ken Gyan, MHU Clinical Lead joined by Vulcan Pioneers of New Brunswick Fire Department at the annual Juneteenth Celebration

## RBHS STUDENT HEALTH CORNER

### American College Health Association Annual Meeting

Contributing authors: Noa'a Shimoni (Associate Vice President for Student Health and Wellness, Rutgers University; Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Student Health and Wellness at Rutgers-New Brunswick) and Kathryn Corpuz (Population Health Administrative Fellow, RBHS)

This year's American College Health Association (ACHA) Annual Meeting had a great representation from Rutgers University and Student Health faculty and staff. The meeting was held in Boston, Massachusetts, from May 30 through June 3, 2023, and the theme was "Culture of Care Revolution: Together we Thrive."

Presentations included:

- **"Immunization Compliance Re-envisioned"** (Noa'a Shimoni, MD, MPH, Mallory Scott, MBA, and Cynthia Lant, BA)
- **"Working with Immunization Data to Increase Vaccination Rates: Challenges and Solutions through Case Studies"** (Noa'a Shimoni, MD, MPH, Michala Rose, BA, Francesca Maresca, PhD, CHES, Kathryn Corpuz, MPH)
- **"Leveraging Survey Data for Impact"** (Karen Shapiro, MBA, MPH and Noa'a Shimoni, MD, MPH)
- **"The Relationship Between Somatic Symptoms and Mental Health in the College-Aged Student"** (Presenters: Nadine Aktan, PhD, FNP-BC)

Posters included:

- **"Leaping from Clinician-Centric Scheduling to Student-Centric Scheduling"** (Cathryn Heath, MD and Lynn Fryer, APN-C)



Noa'a Shimoni (Associate Vice President for Student Health and Wellness), Francesca Maresca (Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs - Health and Wellness), and nurses from Rutgers Student Health at the ACHA Annual Meeting

- **"Then and Now: Health and Wellness Survey results from 2020-2023"** (Karen Shapiro, MBA, MPH and Joyce Porter, MBA)
- **"Another Season FLU By! The Evolution of RU Vaccine Clinic"** (Betty Stolarski, BSN, Suzanne Rynkiewicz, BSN, RN, Selbourne Witter, RN, Christina Ferdinand, RN-BSN, Maris Manguiat, BSN, RN)

For a more information on highlights from the annual meeting, please see the ACHA Annual Meeting website [here](#). The abstract books for the program and posters, along with the final program can be accessed on the website under the "Programs & Events" field.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- National Institutes of Health (NIH): [Patient-Clinician Relationship: Improving Health Outcomes in Populations that Experience Health Care Disparities \(R01 Clinical trial Optional\)](#). This grant intends to support innovative multi-disciplinary and multi-level research designed to understand and address how optimizing patient-clinician relationships affects health care outcomes for patients from populations with health disparities. The deadline is January 7, 2025. Visit this [webpage](#) for more information.





- National Institutes of Health (NIH): [Health Care Models for Persons with Multiple Chronic Conditions from Populations that Experience Health Disparities: Advancing Health Care Towards Health Equity \(ROI-Clinical Trial Optional\)](#). This initiative will support innovative, collaborative, and multi-disciplinary research designed to study the effective adaptation, integration, and implementation of recommended guidelines of care for persons with multiple chronic conditions (MCCs) from populations that experience health disparities. Projects would be expected to involve more than one component and/or more than one level of influence within existing or newly proposed healthcare models. This initiative's ultimate goal is to attain optimal treatment and health outcomes goals to move towards health equity. The deadline is September 7, 2024. Visit this [webpage](#) for more information.
- National Institute of Health (NIH): [Behavioral and Social Science Priority Areas in Dementia Care Partner/Caregiver Research](#). Solicits high-priority Alzheimer's disease (AD) and AD-related dementias (ADRD) care partner/caregiver research areas as set forth by the National Institute on Aging's Division of Behavioral and Social Research. Priority areas are guided by the AD/ADRD research implementation milestones and are based on expert discussions from the NIH 2020 Dementia Care Summit and recommendations from the NASEM Decadal Survey of Behavioral and Social Science Research on AD/ADRD. This Notice of Special Interest encourages behavioral and social research on care partners/caregivers for individuals with AD/ADRD. The deadline for submission is November 13, 2024. Visit this [webpage](#) for more information.
- American Cancer Society: [Cancer Health Equity Research Centers](#). The funding is intended to support the formation of Cancer Health Equity Research Centers (CHERCs) designed to target cancer health disparities that are unique to a local or regional community. Areas of interest include the integration of social determinants of health screening tools and interventions, strategies to prevent diagnostic or treatment delays, and strategies to overcome barriers or promote facilitators of treatment adherence. The new CHERC application deadline is October 16, 2023. Visit this [webpage](#) for more information.
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: [Research on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Risks for Abuse and Injury Among Vulnerable Children and Youth](#). This opportunity is a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) to fund research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and risks for abuse and injury among vulnerable children and youth. Emphasis is placed on disparity populations related to abuse and neglect prior to the pandemic and populations that have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus. Disparity populations include American Indians, Alaska Natives, LGBT youth, and children seen at rural emergency departments. The Deadline is May 31, 2024. Visit this [webpage](#) for more information.

### **Upcoming Funding**

- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI): [Healthy Aging: Optimizing Physical and Mental Functioning Across the Aging Continuum - Cycle 3 2023](#). PCORI intends to reissue a Targeted PCORI Funding Announcement (PFA) on September 6, 2023, seeking to fund high-quality, comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) projects that focus on optimizing physical and mental functioning for community-dwelling older adults and their caregivers. Letter of intent due Oct 3, 2023, and the application deadline is Jan 9, 2024, by 5 pm. Visit this [webpage](#) for more information.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Rutgers Equity Alliance for Community Health (REACH) announced its seven spring [2023 Grant Awardees](#)**

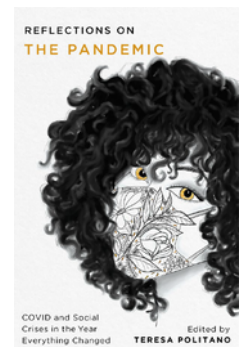


After a successful first round of grant submissions, REACH has selected and recently [announced its first grant awardees](#). The selected projects cover REACH'S five focus areas in education, employment, food access and security, housing, and population health. Check out the [REACH website](#) to learn more about this initiative and its Community-Academic Grants Program.

We are also pleased to announce that [Dr. Denise Rodgers](#) (Vice Chancellor for Interprofessional Programs, Director for the Rutgers Urban Health and Wellness Institute, and the Principal Investigator for REACH) will be presenting at the upcoming Rutgers Population Health Consortium, which will be held on September 18, 2023.

### **Check out this new publication: Reflections on the Pandemic**

"[Reflections on the Pandemic: COVID and Social Crises in the Year Everything Changed](#)" is a collection of essays, poems, and artwork that captures the raw energy and emotion of 2020 from the perspective of the Rutgers University community. A diverse group of Rutgers scholars, students, staff, and alumni have contributed to this publication and have shared their thoughts about 2020 through the perspectives of topics like family, equality, history, and social justice, among others. More information about the book and contributors, along with links to purchase the book can be found [here](#). For US orders, the discount code RUSA30 can be used for 30% off and free shipping.



### **The New Jersey Department of Health releases the 2023 Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Data Brief**



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DATA BRIEF ON HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS

In June 2023, the New Jersey Department of Health disseminated the [2023 HPV Data Brief](#). This resource provides latest updates to New Jersey specific data on HPV-associated cancers and HPV immunization coverage. The updated data shows that there is an

increase in the incidence of cancers related to HPV in New Jersey. However, adolescent HPV vaccination rates have shown a slight decrease. These key takeaways should be considered in ongoing efforts to prioritize prevention through HPV vaccination and regular screening. More resources about HPV can be found on the New Jersey Department of Health website [here](#).

### **The Rutgers Office of Population Health Launched its Social Media Channels**

Explore the recently launched social media platforms of the Rutgers Office of Population Health on YouTube and Twitter! Our [YouTube Channel](#), aptly named "Population Health Central" in alignment with our newsletter, is now live and showcases a series of concise educational videos crafted by our dedicated summer interns. These videos delve into subjects like chronic diseases, vaccinations, sun safety, and more. Over the course of the year, we will continue to collaborate closely with our students and Population Health Fellows to curate additional videos. These videos will serve as a resource, providing the community with essential insights into various population health matters.



Additionally, our brand-new [Twitter](#) functions as another conduit to share updates, upcoming events, opportunities, accomplishments, and more, all linked to the realm of population health. Our Twitter presence also endeavors to establish connections with fellow enthusiasts and professionals who share a profound interest in advancing population health.

To stay connected and learn more, please consider following our [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#) pages!

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **Community Health Fair**

***Sunday, September 10, 2023, 12:00 – 5:00 PM***

Rutgers Global Health Institute and partner organizations, including the Church of the Oranges, will hold a health fair at Monte Irvin in Orange Park. Free health screenings for diabetes and hypertension will be available along with health education resources. View the [event website](#) for more information.

### **Value-Based Care: The Critical Path for Patients, Providers & Payers**

***Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 12:00 – 2:00 PM***

This free virtual webinar features researchers and experts from payer and provider organizations to share lessons learned from successful value-based care (VBC) implementations. Learn more by viewing the [event website](#).

### **Rutgers Population Health Consortium September 2023 Meeting**

***Monday, September 18, 2023, 1:00 – 2:30 PM***

Zoom details have been shared via email to the Population Health Consortium members. Dr. Denise Rodgers will be a featured guest presenter.

### **Are Accommodations for Me?**

***Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 7:00 – 8:00 PM***

October is Disability Awareness Month at Rutgers University. Speakers from the Office of Disability Services will share insights on accommodations and the extensive support services available at Rutgers. Information on [this online event](#) and other exciting happenings, please visit the [Rutgers New Brunswick event page](#).