



LEADERSHIP

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INSTITUTE FOR URBAN HEALTH: RESEARCH

Improving health through research, evaluation, policy,
and practice

The Academy is committed to multi-disciplinary, collaborative research and evaluation to generate new knowledge that advances the field of urban health. Our research spans disciplines that include health management and policy, health economics, systems science modeling, health systems research, cognitive and behavioral sciences, anthropology, urban planning, public deliberation, epidemiology, and program evaluation.

Our multi-method approach includes quantitative and qualitative studies, community-based participatory research, and program evaluation. The Institute houses three research centers: the Center for Cognitive Studies in Medicine and Public Health, Center for Evaluation and Applied Research, and Center for Health Innovation.

SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERTISE

- Access to care for immigrant populations
- Aging
- Asthma
- Community health needs
- Cognitive assessment
- Chronic disease prevention and management
- Diabetes prevention and management
- Health care workforce training
- Health economics
- Public health and health services management and policy
- Multi-sectoral programming
- Patient safety and error reduction
- Population health science
- Team decision making

SELECTED RESEARCH CAPABILITIES

- Community health needs assessment
- Community Based Participatory Research
- Cost-effectiveness analysis
- Decision making processes evaluation
- Deliberative community decision making
- Health impact assessments
- Program design and evaluation
- Public deliberation
- Quantitative and qualitative research
- Survey development and administration
- Systems science and simulation modeling
- Technology evaluation
- Training and technical assistance

CENTER FOR EVALUATION AND APPLIED RESEARCH

The Center for Evaluation and Applied Research (CEAR) works with not-for-profit and governmental organizations to investigate and assess initiatives that seek to improve health and well-being. With expertise in qualitative and quantitative research methods, CEAR conducts needs assessments, formative research, and process and outcome evaluations.

CEAR works with programs focused on a wide range of topics, including practice change in health care settings, training of the health care workforce, reducing disparities, prevention and management of chronic disease, behavioral health, and access to care for immigrant populations. In implementing its projects, CEAR staff develop research and evaluation protocols; administer surveys, in-depth interviews and focus groups; manage and analyze quantitative and qualitative data; and prepare and disseminate presentations, reports, and publications.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Claremont Healthy Village Initiative Evaluation

This mixed-methods evaluation, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, focuses on the implementation and outcomes of a cross-sector collaborative based in the Claremont section of the Bronx. Launched in 2012, the Claremont Healthy Village focuses on addressing health disparities and sustaining a shared culture of health promotion and well-being. The evaluation, conducted as a collaboration between CEAR and the Academy's Center for Health Innovation, includes interviews, surveys, focus groups, and analysis of health care claims.

100 Schools Project Evaluation

The 100 Schools Project is a behavioral health initiative designed to build skills and capacity, reinforce community linkages, and improve outcomes in selected middle and high schools throughout New York City. A Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP)-funded project of The Jewish Board, the mixed-methods evaluation, is intended to inform program implementation and to assess impact.

Language Access in Chain Pharmacies

For over a decade, CEAR has led research on capacity and provision of language access services to limited English proficient (LEP) pharmacies patients, and pharmacy compliance with language access regulations. Working in collaboration with Make the Road New York and their affiliate organizations, CEAR is also examining LEP consumer awareness and use of pharmacy language services, as well as knowledge regarding medication instructions. The study is funded by the Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation.

Evaluation of the New York State SHIP/SIM

A collaboration between the Academy's Center for Health Innovation, Center for Health Policy and Programs and CEAR, the evaluation of the State Health Improvement Plan/State Innovation Model (SHIP/SIM) focuses on process and outcomes, with the goal of providing NYS with timely information for quality improvement. The Academy's evaluation includes quantitative and qualitative components and is assessing changes in cost, quality, and health.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Consumer Perspectives on Health Care Decision-Making: Quality, Cost and Access to Information (The New York Academy of Medicine, 2016)

Reducing childhood asthma triggers in public housing: Implementation and outcomes from an East Harlem community health worker program (Environmental Justice, 2015)

Implementation and outcomes of the New York State YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program: A multisite community-based translation (Preventing Chronic Disease, 2014)

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CENTER FOR COGNITIVE STUDIES IN MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The Academy's Center for Cognitive Studies in Medicine and Public Health is a multidisciplinary research center devoted to empirical analysis of the decision-making behaviors of health care providers and their interactions with patients. These studies use methods of data collection and analysis that are grounded in social, cognitive and information sciences. During provider-patient interactions, errors may be generated and these errors may impact patient outcomes. Errors of this type may also influence patient education and health policy recommendations. The role health information technology (e.g., electronic health records) plays in mitigating these errors, and in developing informed educational and training programs for patient safety, is an important part of the Center's work.

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CURRENT PROJECTS

The Role of EHRs in Clinical Workflow in Emergency Departments

Advances in health information technology such as Electronic Health Records (EHRs) can reduce the burden of complexity on clinicians, potentially improving quality, safety, and efficiency of health care. In research conducted in collaboration with the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Mayo Clinic, we used an evidence-based, empirical approach to investigate three specific critical elements of emergency department (ED) workflow: information seeking, team interaction, and decision making in the context of clinicians' use of EHRs, where workflow elements are evaluated using a set of five clinical quality and efficiency metrics, both before and after meaningful use criteria, for stages one and two. We use convergent methodologies such as clinician shadowing, EHR log-file analysis, continuous screen capture and use sensor-based tracking such as radio frequency identification. The results will contribute to the development of generalizable design guidelines that are better integrated into the social fabric of the clinical environment, and patient-safety measures. It will also provide the Office of the National Coordinator and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services with evidence to guide the evolving certification criteria for EHR vendors, and future regulations

promoting meaningful use of EHRs. The project is funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Cognitive Analysis of Use of Mhealth Tools by Community Health Workers for Early Identification of Depression and Suicide Risk

Many countries are facing high rates of mental illness among residents. Due to a scarcity of qualified psychiatrists, particularly in the remote areas, training Community Health Nurses (CHNs) as the front line to identify persons at high risk becomes very important. Working in collaboration with Texas A&M, Fiji National University, and Fiji Ministry of Health, the goal of our research is to reduce the current high rates of depression and suicide in the Pacific Island Countries (Fiji is the primary site) by increasing screening, early identification, and referral of high-risk individuals to psychiatric care. Mobile health technologies (Mhealth) offer great promise to aid in this task-shifting scheme. In this study, we investigate cognitive processes underlying CHNs assessment of these mental health problems, with and without Mhealth tools, and use the results to guide the design and development of optimal mobile mental health systems. In addition, we hope to help develop Mhealth research capacity in Fiji through training and education, working with the Ministry of Health in the Fiji Islands. The project is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Cognitive Informatics in Health and Biomedicine: Understanding and Modeling Health Behaviors, Patel, V.L., Arocha, J.F. & Ancker, J.A., (Springer, London, 2017).

Contextual Computing: A Bluetooth-based Approach for Tracking Healthcare Providers in the Emergency Room (*Journal of Biomedical Informatics*, 2017)

CENTER FOR HEALTH INNOVATION

The Center for Health Innovation develops and implements innovative and data-driven solutions to improve the health care system, with increased attention on vulnerable populations. With the triple aim of reducing costs, increasing quality, and improving population health, the center designs, tests, and evaluates financially sustainable improvements in health care delivery systems that recognize the social and economic determinants of health.

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CURRENT PROJECTS

Participatory Urban Living for Sustainable Environments (PULSE)

Center researchers are working with a dozen partners across Europe and Asia to address asthma and diabetes prevention and management in the cities of Barcelona, Paris, Birmingham, Singapore, and New York. The Center research team is developing simulation models to inform diabetes and asthma prevention using multiple data sources and big data analytics. The study is funded by the European Commission as part of Horizon 2020—the European Union Framework Program for Research and Innovation.

New York State Innovation Model (SIM) Evaluation

In collaboration with FAIR Health, the Center for Health Innovation, along with the Academy's Center for Evaluation and Applied Research are analyzing health insurance claims data to understand the impact of the SIM initiative on health care utilization and costs across providers and practices in the state. The team is also conducting interviews with different stakeholders to understand key facilitators and barriers to implementing the SIM initiative.

Systems Science Modeling and Population Health

Center researchers are working with investigators at Texas A&M University and Tsinghua University in China to use complex systems science methods to evaluate a wide range of community-based prevention strategies and policies. These projects use the New York Academy of Medicine Cardiovascular Health Simulation (NYAM-CHS) models to estimate the impact of prevention and management interventions on health outcomes and costs.

Assessing Breast Cancer Screening and Treatment Access for Vulnerable Populations

This project seeks to evaluate the payment and delivery system model used by the Breast Treatment Task Force (BTTF) to provide screening, diagnostic, and treatment services for uninsured women in New York City. BTTF works with several private imaging centers who offer these services to patients at reduced cost. Center researchers are examining the effectiveness of the BTTF care model and its impact on breast cancer outcomes.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Identifying policy levers and opportunities for action across states to achieve health equity

(Health Affairs, 2017)

Who does not reduce their sodium intake despite being advised to do so? A population segmentation analysis

(Preventive Medicine, 2017)

Telementoring primary care clinicians to improve geriatric mental health care

(Population Health Management, 2017)