

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Purpose/Utility of Research

EPA supports research that will help in the understanding and prevention of health disparities from environmental conditions and pollution. Racial/ethnic and economic disparities cause many health problems and are very costly to our society.

EPA seeks to ensure that no community bears a disproportionate burden, especially those which are susceptible, vulnerable, or socioeconomically disadvantaged. This poster features one of the leading edge extramural research RFAs issued under the Science To Achieve Results (STAR) program to address environmental health disparities research.

Connection to SHC Portfolio

Housed in the SHC 2.63 Charter, this research is supported within Task 2.63.7 - Research to understand the environmental and social health disparities affecting disproportionately impacted communities (STAR).

Results from this work will unify with the intramural research supported under SHC Task 2.63.6 (and other ORD human health disparities projects) to further scientific knowledge and understanding.

This task will also draw upon and inform community-based research supported in the SHC 2.62 Charter.

Highlights

EPA issued a 2012 RFA via an inter-agency agreement with the NIH's National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to fund new environmental health disparities research supplements to 10 existing centers within their Centers of Excellence program. The Centers support a transdisciplinary network of excellence in health disparities research that engages in the complex interaction of biological, social and environmental determinants of population health to support research aimed at addressing questions such as:

- What are the environmental and neighborhood effects on cardiovascular risk?
- What are the effects of racial residential segregation on the physical and social environmental factors that impact health?
- How can we find pathways towards solutions to socioeconomic, natural, chemical, and built environment issues contributing to the environmental health disparities faced by Native American and Hispanic communities?
- How can we develop innovative approaches to alleviate environmentally driven health disparities and improve access to healthy environments for vulnerable populations?

EPA-NIMHD Centers of Excellence on Environment and Health Disparities Research



The 10 EPA/NIMHD Center Principle Investigators

- Dr. Carla Boutin-Foster, Weill Cornell Medical College, NY
- Dr. Elizabeth Calhoun, U of Illinois-Chicago, IL
- Dr. Christine Daley, U of Kansas Medical Center, KA
- Dr. Ana Diez-Rouz, U of Michigan, MI
- Dr. Michael Ericksen, Georgia State U, GA
- Dr. Saundra Glover, U of South Carolina, SC
- Dr. José Luchsinger, Columbia U Medical Center, NY
- Dr. Paul Juarez, Meharry Medical College, TN
- Dr. Elias Provencio-Vasquez, U of Texas-El Paso, TX
- Dr. Robert Williams, U of New Mexico, NM

For more information contact Maggie Breville, Task Lead (breville.maggie@epa.gov)

Intended End users

- ORD and EPA Program offices and Regions
- Municipal, state and regional government
- The scientific community
- Nonprofit organizations
- General public
- International community

Potential Lessons Learned

Anticipated outputs and outcomes include:

- a better understanding of disease etiology for environmentally related diseases;
- the development of innovative tools and methods to assess exposure, cumulative health effects and disproportionate health risks and impacts; and
- an increased understanding of population vulnerability.

Such expansion and advancement of scientific inquiry and information is necessary for the EPA to adequately address environmental justice stakeholder's concerns about environment, sustainability, and health inequalities.

Potential Application & Translation

This research will:

- ✓ help to elucidate the role/contribution of the natural/built/social environment to health disparities;
- ✓ allow for the development of policies/interventions that provide primary prevention; and
- ✓ contribute to the improvement of resiliency at the individual and community levels.

Upcoming Disparities Research

- ❖ 2014 Joint EPA/NIH RFA to establish the Centers of Excellence on Environmental Health Disparities – Awards in Fall 2015
- ❖ 2016 STAR RFA on social determinants of health