



2011 Recipients

UHI Small Grants for Research and Program Development

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT-COMMUNITY GRANTS

Alexandra Hittman, Undergraduate, School of Arts and Sciences
Zizwe Allette, Literacy Instructor, YO! Eastside Center (HEBCAC)

Community Service Farming: Bridging the Food Gap for Baltimore City Youth

Middle East Baltimore, a neighborhood bordering the Johns Hopkins Medical Campus, has been identified as a 'food desert,' defined by the CDC as an "area that lack[s] access to affordable fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat milk, and other foods that make up the full range of a healthy diet." Within this neighborhood lies YO! Baltimore East, a vibrant community center dedicated to serving struggling local youth with opportunities for education, career skills training and life development skills in a safe and nurturing setting designed to keep them off the streets. In an attempt to address the nutritional inadequacies of this area, we have spearheaded a project to provide YO! students with access to freshly grown healthy food in partnership with the Real Food Farm. This provides them with access to fresh food and practical agricultural and nutritional knowledge, while introducing them to the merits of community service and civic engagement. With this grant, we would hope to expand upon this program and start a student-run vegetable garden on a vacant green lot near the Johns Hopkins Eastern campus where YO! students could fully reap the benefits of what they sow.

Cynthia Idada, Undergraduate, School of Arts Sciences
Lelin Chao, Chief Medical Officer, People's Community Health Centers, Inc.

People for People's: Supporting the Health and Well-Being of Baltimore

People's Community Health Centers, or "People's," is a non-profit Baltimore health care system with nine centers scattered throughout the city. In the past few months, volunteers have flooded the Greenmount Avenue center, helping with everything from clerical to clinical work. By taking on more function, the volunteers improve patient satisfaction, productivity, and ultimately, patient care. However, the volunteers are limited by a lack of funds. We have literally no funding sources, making it difficult to support volunteer training or new program implementation. Relying on a sole stethoscope and blood pressure cuff (the personal set of one of our members), we can only train one volunteer at a time in patient assessments. Without any funds to purchase supplies, we can't begin the patient education initiatives we intend to pursue. We propose that receiving these vital funds would allow us to expand; not only would we be able to more efficiently train members in currently-existing clinic roles, but we would also begin using wait times in the clinic for patient education initiatives. It is our hope that in so doing, we can be a force for improving the health and well-being of Baltimore.

Daniel Borota, Undergraduate, School of Arts Sciences
Morgan Blizzard, Food Ministry Coordinator, Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Amazing Grace Community Kitchen

The mission of the Amazing Grace Community Kitchen is to alleviate the strong correlation between low-income status and poor dietary health in East Baltimore through health education and outreach. In partnership with Morgan Blizzard of the Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, the Community Kitchen will impart residents with the knowledge on how to improve health through a healthy diet. By building upon the existing relationship between Amazing Grace and the East Baltimore community, we hope to establish a permanent, sustainable community-based organization aimed at bringing people together and promoting health. With bi-monthly interactive cooking lessons and workshops, guest chefs will teach local residents how to prepare affordable, easy to make, nutritious meals using locally grown and acquired foods. In addition to improving health, it is our hope that the community kitchen will serve as a venue for lasting friendships among participants by hosting special events such as cook-off parties and theme nights. By following up with participants, we hope to foster accountability and allow for constructive feedback to ensure that members' health needs are being met. With this initiative, we seek to promote health by teaching and providing the resources for healthy eating in East Baltimore one person at a time.

Megan Buresh, Medical Student, School of Medicine
Alfredo Santiago, Juntos Support Group Facilitator, Social Worker, Department of Social Services

Juntos (Together) – Latino HIV+ Peer Support Group

In the last ten years, AIDS incidence rate has doubled among Latinos in Baltimore City, who tend to present with late stage disease. The majority of Baltimore Latinos are recent immigrants from Central America whose primary language is Spanish. Foreign-born status has been shown to correlate with lower levels of knowledge of HIV/AIDS and also with shorter time interval from HIV diagnosis to AIDS. In response to this need, programs to provide culturally competent HIV testing and care to Latinos have emerged over the last few years in Baltimore, but there is still a lack of psychosocial support. Peer support groups have been shown to improve health and measures of well being among HIV-positive individuals, but there are currently no existing groups in Baltimore targeted to HIV-positive Latinos. Unfortunately, many HIV-positive Latinos experience significant isolation from the stigma of being ethnic minority migrants and HIV-positive. We propose to develop a sustainable support group that will provide psychosocial support for HIV-positive Latinos, decrease stigma and create a community of peer leaders among HIV-positive Latinos.

GRADUATE STUDENT-COMMUNITY GRANTS

Alishea Galvin, Graduate Student, School of Public Health
Thor Nelson, President, Whitelock Community Farm

Addressing Food Insecurity in Reservoir Hill, Baltimore, MD

This project aims to address food insecurity in Reservoir Hill, Baltimore, MD – an identified “food desert” -- by applying theory-based best practices grounded in literature to strengthen existing community based food security efforts. Working with three community partners the project will assess the barriers to expanding food access and increasing healthy eating knowledge, attitudes, and practices in Reservoir Hill through a needs assessment. The project will implement three programs to increase food security:

increase healthy food access by working with corner stores in Reservoir Hill to reduce structural and additudinal barriers to stocking fresh vegetables, Increase residents healthy food awareness, knowledge, and practices through healthy food cooking classes, and supporting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits acceptance at Whitelock Community Farm's farm stand. This project will be a pilot for ongoing programming of the community partners to apply for additional funding to scale-up existing programs.

Anne Hendrick, Graduate Student, School of Education

Elizabeth Obara Piedramartel, Community School Coordinator, Patterson Park Public Charter School

Family Health and Fitness Club

The goal of the Family Health and Fitness Club is to educate parents and their children about making good choices when it comes to raising healthy families. In creating this club, the school can bring families together one day a week for 24 weeks to learn about nutrition, practice wellness, and participate in fitness through fun family activities.

Specific program goals include: Parents/guardians will feel more confident in making healthy lifestyle choices for their families and accessing needed health resources; Participants will increase weekly level of physical activity, as indicated by weekly activity logs; Participants will demonstrate a positive change in targeted health behaviors, as indicated by pre-and post-surveys, food journals and activity logs.

The club will empower parents to take charge of their health and fitness as well as becoming leaders in the school community by sharing their experience with others. Not only will this club help to further develop a school community where parents feel welcomed and supported by one another, it will also improve the well-being and academic outcomes of the students that are educated at Patterson Park Public Charter School.

Carmen Kut, Doctoral Student, School of Medicine

Debbie Rock, Executive Director, LIGHT Health and Wellness Comprehensive Services, Inc.

Truth about Medical Imaging – Addressing Distrust and Promoting Diagnostic Imaging within the Baltimore Community

This is a student-initiated project to build and develop awareness about the benefits and risks of diagnostic imaging. From our experiences working with the Baltimore community, we recognize a lack of trust for medical providers and researches conducted at Hopkins, especially among vulnerable groups such as the HIV/AIDS infected/affected population. By establishing an open and regular source of communication, we believe we can enable better trust and more informed medical decisions for this population. We are currently in search of funds for establishing a series of interactive sessions and lunch/dinner discussions for African American HIV/AIDS infected/affected population at LIGHT Health and Wellness. For this initial effort, we plan to focus on medical imaging, which has been rarely addressed and educated about within the community, despite common misconceptions and fears such as radiation risks. LIGHT Health and Wellness works intimately with the HIV/AIDS infected/affected population in the community. Its director, Ms Debbie Rock, is a strong advocate in addressing distrust issues within the community and Hopkins, and previously sat on the JHH Community Research Advisory Board. After this one-year program, we will continue its investment in the project by expanding our programs to other populations in the community, including cancer and heart disease patients.

Claire Sampankanpanich, Medical Student, School of Medicine
Andrew Gaddis, Executive Director, Charm City Clinic

Charm City Clinic: Connecting the Underserved and Uninsured Residents of East Baltimore to Sustainable, Affordable Health Care Services

Charm City Clinic, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded and operated by Baltimore medical, undergraduate, and graduate students in collaboration with community leaders in East Baltimore. Our goal is to reduce health inequities by helping East Baltimore residents to obtain and maintain access to high quality health care and other social services. Since March 2010, Charm City Clinic has served approximately 350 individuals by providing free health assistance with applications to medical assistance programs and social services related to health in conjunction with preventive screenings for hypertension and diabetes and neighborhood-based outreach programs. Support from the Urban Health Institute's 2011 small grants program will enable us to expand our operations in two directions. First, we will launch a small pilot program to train three past clients who live in East Baltimore as neighborhood health outreach workers (HOWs) who will work side-by-side with student volunteers to identify and follow-up with clinic clients in the clinic, their neighborhood, and their homes. Second, we will expand our preventive screenings to include cholesterol, body mass index, and vision. Combined, these two new programs will better equip us to work alongside East Baltimore residents to identify and follow-up with their neighbors in need.

Emeline Mugisha, Graduate Student, School of Public Health
Ashley Rock, Program Director of Clinical Services, JACQUES Initiative

The Pedagogy of Empowerment: Promoting HIV Prevention and Status Awareness among Young Adults in Baltimore City

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has had a pervasive and disproportionate impact on the city of Baltimore and its continued spread is both a public health challenge and crisis. In Baltimore City, it is estimated that someone becomes infected with HIV every eight hours and despite continued efforts, the city continues to see high numbers of HIV infections each year. Although Baltimore City makes up 12.2% of the population in Maryland, it accounts for nearly half of all reported people living with HIV (46.9%) and of annual HIV diagnoses (41.2%) in the state, according to the most recent data. Adults/adolescents aged 13-29 account for 23.8% of new HIV diagnoses. The risk of HIV infection among young adults is particularly high due to their sexual risk behaviors, high rates of and infrequent testing for STDs, and other evidence-based risk factors. The mission of our project is to empower young adults aged 18-24 in Baltimore City as leaders in HIV prevention and health promotion through provision of both HIV education and rapid HIV testing; to equip those who test negative with the information needed to remain HIV-free; and to link those who test positive to the care and support services needed to live well.

Jeffrey Duong, Doctoral Student, School of Public Health
Carol Berman, Director; Founder, Heart's Place Homeless Shelter

HEaR ME Tweet and Tumblr

This proposal requests funds for a graduate-student community project between Jeffrey Duong at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Heart's Place Homeless Shelter. More than 3,000 individuals in Baltimore city are homeless. It is widely accepted that misperceptions and stigma towards the homeless are prevalent. For example, between 1999 and 2009, at least 17 homeless individuals have

been the target of hate crimes in Maryland, where 7 resulted in deaths. With funding from the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, our team comprising students from the Bloomberg School of Public Health and University of Maryland created the HEaR ME project in 2010, which aims to reduce the stigma associated with homelessness. To continue our work, we propose a new project called HEaR ME Tweet and Tumblr. Using a community-based participatory approach, we aim to teach the homeless how to effectively use social networking sites. We also aim to empower homeless individuals to engage in outreach and self-advocacy. By using social networking sites, this project will help inform members of the general community about the realities associated with homelessness. It also provides a way for lawmakers to understand better the experiences of the homeless, which may help inform policy and planning.

Marcus Seldin, Graduate Student, School of Medicine
Jessica Turrall, Executive Director, Hand In Hand Baltimore

Discovering Me: Partnering with Young Men Charged as Adults to Create Self-Worth and Positive Self-Image!

Hand in Hand Baltimore (HIH) provides direct intervention services to youth ages 14-17 charged as adults. Through this grant HIH will provide mentoring, mental health, academic skill-building, and employment support to the youth who are detained or released to the community. Due to the fact that youth are charged as adults in Maryland more than DC and Virginia, and are held in separate incarceration facilities in the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), which lacks mental health services for the youth like those offered in juvenile detention systems, HIH will use the funding in providing services to these juveniles.

Maya Nadison, Doctoral Student, School of Public Health
Adam Rosenberg, Executive director, Baltimore Child Abuse Center

A Sexual-Abuse Awareness Program, Using Puppetry, for Middle-School Students

Child sexual abuse violates fundamental social norms and can be prevented. This proposal aspires to partner with the Baltimore Child Abuse Center (BCAC) to: 1) empower teenage victims by helping them produce a puppet performance about child sexual abuse, which will be presented to a group of peers and non-offending caregivers, and 2) use insights gained from working with this group of teenagers to design and implement a replicable school-based health education program, using puppetry, to promote sexual-abuse awareness in Baltimore City schools. Specifically, this intervention aims to teach children core concepts for resisting the approach of an offender. These concepts include body ownership, appropriate touches, attitudes regarding strangers, secrets that should not be kept, and potential familiarity of the offender¹⁻³. Well executed, such a complementary outreach program could have a long-lasting and far-reaching impact on the welfare of the entire Baltimore community by preventing cases of child sexual abuse. The messages will embrace the guidelines established by the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC). The NCAC models, promotes, and delivers excellence in child-abuse response and prevention through service, education, and leadership.

Rosa Miyares, Graduate Student, School of Arts Sciences
Krista Porter-Viel, Biology Teacher, Baltimore Talent Development High School

Expanding MInDS in Biology: A High School Outreach Program

Expanding MInDS in Biology is a science outreach program entering its fourth year. The Biology graduate student group, Mentoring to Inspire Diversity in Science (MInDS) works with the Biology teachers at a local West Baltimore public high school. Each year we visit six 10th grade Baltimore Talent Development High School Biology classes. We visit once a month during the school year bringing exciting, hands-on biology lab exercises to the classroom to expose the students to the forefront of scientific thinking. As scientists, we have access to scientific materials that are difficult if not impossible for a high school teacher to obtain. Our lesson plans are designed to improve the understanding of key concepts, and will ultimately help improve the school's performance in Maryland state testing (currently only 45% of BT DHS students pass the Biology HSA test). Our lessons are taught in conjunction with ongoing classroom topics, and in the coming year, we aim to integrate more teacher-taught activities and worksheets as both preparation and follow-up to the lab demonstrations that MInDS teaches. We will also bring the students to Johns Hopkins for a visit, not only to see where scientists work, but also to bring post-secondary education into the forefront.

Sabriya L. Linton, Graduate Student, School of Public Health
Vaile Leonard, Founder/CEO, The Light of Truth Center, Inc

Understanding the Life Priorities and Needs of Women Recovering from Addiction

In response to the Urban Health Institute's request for project proposals aimed at advancing the health of residents in Baltimore, we propose collaboration with The Light of Truth Center (LTC) to perform a qualitative study that will assess the needs of women recovering from addiction to drugs and alcohol. Addiction to drugs and alcohol continues to be a leading public health problem in the nation and Baltimore city. LTC provides supportive housing, psychosocial services, educational training, and other services to women recovering from addiction to drugs and alcohol. In order to ensure that the needs of their clients are being met, LTC staff aim to understand the needs of their clients and determine gaps in service provision. Based on these goals, we propose a qualitative study conducted by two JHSPH students who will administer in-depth interviews to women at the LTC to elicit insight on these issues. The insight gathered will not only inform future operations, but will also inform the development of follow-up and exit forms that will be used to monitor clients' progress in the program. The findings from this study will be relevant to other organizations providing similar services and can inform the tailoring of services elsewhere.

Stephanie Witt, Doctoral Student, School of Public Health
Jessica Burns, RN, MSN/MPH, Nursing Program Consultant, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services

Catch: Community Based Adolescent Testing For Chlamydia: Using Lessons Learned to Pilot New Strategies for the Delivery of Reproductive Health Services to Community Supervised Juvenile Justice Youth

Youth detained in juvenile justice facilities in the United States have some of the highest Chlamydia (CT) and gonorrhea (GC) rates in the country, with the highest prevalence among females. The Maryland

Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) has an established CT/GC screening program in its secure detention facilities, but has limited reproductive health services available for community supervised juvenile justice youth (CSJJY). Since July 2010, DJS has worked to expand health services to CSJJY through the CATCh program. CATCh stands for Community-based Adolescent Testing for Chlamydia and provides CT/GC testing, counseling and referral services to CSJJY in Baltimore City, including adolescent girls supervised in the Female Intervention Team (FIT) Unit. Preliminary results from FIT reveal high CT positivity consistent with levels seen in secure detention facilities. The initial evaluation of CATCh also identified several recommendations for improvement, including the need for health care provider rather than case manager driven testing efforts. The key elements of the current project proposal are CT/GC testing by a health care provider via distinct targeted testing efforts, health fairs to promote positive health behaviors and connect youth to local health resources, and an evaluation to determine the acceptability of this model for CSJJY.

Suzanne Grieb, Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Public Health
Joyce Jones, Co-Medical Director, Latino Outreach Program, Baltimore City Health Department

Improving HIV Preventative and Testing Services to Heterosexual-identifying Migrant Latino Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM)

Latinos in the U.S. are disproportionately affected by HIV, and this has become a growing concern for Baltimore City Latinos as their population and HIV incidence continues to increase. Although the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) continues to serve this population through their Latino Outreach Program, they have not been successful in engaging Latino men who have sex with men (MSM) or men who have sex with men and women (MSMW). Previous research has demonstrated the role of stigma based on immigrant status, race/ethnicity, and sexuality in increasing HIV vulnerability among homosexual Latinos. However, many recent immigrant Latino MSM/MSMW do not identify as homosexual, and thus pose additional obstacles to engagement in HIV preventative and testing services. We propose to recruit 25 recent migrant Latino MSM/MSMW in Baltimore through chain-referral sampling to conduct iterative in-depth interviews to better understand their lives and explore how stigma and discrimination impact access to HIV preventative and testing services and to elicit ideas for improving services to this population. Results of this study will be used by the BCHD to improve HIV services for MSM/MSMW in the Latino community. Additional utilization of the findings will be brainstormed with our community coalition.

FACULTY-COMMUNITY GRANTS

Colleen L. Barry, Associate Professor, School of Public Health
Penelope Power, BCARS Program Director, Catholic Charities

Effects of Crisis Response Services on Inpatient and ED Use Among Child and Adolescent Medicaid Enrollees in Baltimore City

Youth experiencing a psychiatric crisis are a high-risk subset of the overall population of children and adolescents with mental illness. In Baltimore, the Baltimore Child and Adolescent Response System (B-CARS) serves as the city's only mental health crisis response program for urban children and their families. To date, few urban crisis response programs for youth have been critically evaluated. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the BCARS program at reducing high-cost psychiatric emergency department and inpatient hospitalizations, we propose a unique collaboration between Johns Hopkins and Catholic Charities. Through a partnership with the Hilltop Institute at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, we will obtain and analyze Maryland Medicaid claims data for the approximately 1500 B-CARS participants between 2004 and 2009 as well as a propensity-score matched comparison group of youth. The aims of the project are to determine the effect of the B-CARS intervention on psychiatric inpatient hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and outpatient behavioral health visits among Medicaid beneficiaries ages 0-18. The results will be used by the B-CARS program to recruit additional Baltimore area hospitals to refer children to B-CARS. In addition, results could enable B-CARS to serve as a model urban health program for other cities.

Courtney Keeton, Assistant Professor, School of Medicine
Vanessa Booth, Pastor, Lamb of Life Baptist Church

Behavioral Health Intervention by Paraprofessionals in the Baltimore African American Faith-Based Community

Dr. Keeton and the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, in partnership with Pastor Dr. Vanessa Booth and Lamb of Life Baptist Church, propose to continue research initiatives associated with a novel parenting intervention designed to reduce mental health disparities and improve the psychological well-being of families in Baltimore's African American community. In collaboration with local churches, we have developed and collected pilot data on a faith-based, empirically-informed parenting intervention implemented by paraprofessionals in the church setting and designed to reduce risk factors associated with youth behavior problems. Funding is requested to sustain this program of research while preserving our academic-community partnership. The proposed project aims to: (1) Summarize and disseminate pilot data reporting the feasibility, acceptability, and outcome evaluation of the in-church implementation of the Strong Families Project (SFP); (2) Revise the SFP intervention manual for use in a larger trial; (3) Establish procedures to sustain SFP in the community without academic research infrastructure; and (4) Submit a NIH R01 grant to conduct a larger efficacy trial. Achieving these aims is a crucial step toward demonstrating the efficacy of SFP in improving behavioral health outcomes and disseminating the program in order to improve outcomes for Baltimore's African American youth.

Danielle German, Assistant Scientist, School of Public Health
Colin Flynn, Chief, Center for HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology, Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Using Baltimore HIV Behavioral Surveillance Data for New Local HIV Prevention Planning

This project will develop a system for using Baltimore HIV behavioral surveillance data to guide development of new HIV prevention plans to implement the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) in Baltimore. Addressing HIV/AIDS is a key priority for improving the health of Baltimore residents. Baltimore is one of 12 metropolitan areas participating in CDC's Enhanced Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan (ECHPP) project, designed to develop and implement local response plans to NHAS to reduce HIV risk and incidence in jurisdictions most affected by HIV. The proposed project builds on an existing partnership between Johns Hopkins and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to implement HIV behavioral surveillance in Baltimore. Collaborative activities will provide local data on key HIV-related indicators at appropriate levels of analysis to guide the development of new local HIV prevention plans (ECHPP) to implement the new National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS), monitor achievement of NHAS/ECHPP goals, and build a foundation for continued local data utilization. These activities will allow DHMH and local partners to respond to NHAS/ECHPP in innovative ways that leverage existing resources, benefit the people of Baltimore, and could serve as a model to be shared with other cities in ECHPP and NHBS.

Keeve Nachman, Assistant Scientist, School of Public Health
Katie Dix, CGRN Coordinator, Community Greening Resource Network (CGRN), Parks and People Foundation

Understanding Urban Gardeners' Perceptions of Risk from Soil Contamination: Identifying and Sharing Resources to Mitigate Contaminant Exposure

Community gardens serve important social, ecological and public health functions in urban environments. Despite these benefits, urban soils and garden sites are often contaminated with asbestos, lead, other toxic heavy metals and additional contaminants from past land use, exposing urban gardeners to potential health risks. To understand current risk information gaps among community gardeners in Baltimore City, this study will utilize a qualitative methodology comprising of community gardener surveys and key informant interviews to explore perceptions of risk related to site contamination among community gardeners. Interviews will also be conducted with members of gardening support institutions including city government and selected non-profits to understand organizational resources, educational materials, and perceptions of risk related to soil contamination in urban gardens. We will also conduct a review of educational materials available to community gardeners to identify gaps in information and resources regarding site contamination and contaminant mitigation strategies. This review will result in the production of a resource guide to aid Baltimore City community urban gardeners in understanding and avoiding soil-based risks from urban gardening. We will then hold a series of community workshops to disseminate our research findings and communicate actionable information on mitigating risk and contaminant exposure from urban gardening.

Rachel Johnson Thornton, Assistant Professor, School of Medicine
Laurie Feinberg, Division Chief, Comprehensive Planning, Baltimore City Department of Planning

Reducing Crime through TransForm Baltimore's Comprehensive Rezoning: The Public Health Case for Addressing Nonconforming Liquor Stores

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of Baltimore's first comprehensive zoning code rewrite suggests that rezoning efforts may impact violent injuries and crime by regulating the presence and distribution of liquor stores in the city. Existing research finds that off-premise alcohol outlets are associated with crime. The proposed faculty-community partnership analyzes the relationship between liquor stores

and crime in Baltimore with the intention of influencing the rezoning effort addressing nonconforming liquor stores. The specific aims are to assist the Baltimore City Department of Planning and the Law Department in: 1) characterizing the distribution of liquor stores and their relationship to crime in Baltimore, 2) developing an evidence-based policy addressing nonconforming liquor stores through the comprehensive rezoning effort that utilizes public health expertise, and 3) conducting outreach efforts regarding the potential public health benefits of the zoning rewrite. The project will play a critical role in addressing the liquor outlet density reduction goal in Healthy Baltimore 2015. It effectively capitalizes on a rare opportunity to affect changes in the distribution of nonconforming liquor stores through the zoning rewrite. By enhancing collaboration among researchers and the Departments of Law, Planning and Health, this project will serve as a model for future efforts elsewhere.

Roland J. Thorpe, Jr., Assistant Scientist, School of Public Health
Ryan Petteway, Social Epidemiologist, Baltimore City Health Department

Baltimore Men's Health Assessment Project

Men suffer greatly from gender-based disparities in health outcomes. However much less is known about race differences in men's health. This proposal outlines the—Baltimore Men's Health Assessment Project—which seeks to provide an initial assessment of the health profile of men and document race differences in health indicators in Baltimore city, and assist Baltimore City Health Department and other community leaders in identifying target areas of interest in men's health. The specific aims of the study are to: 1) examine race differences in all-cause and cause-specific mortality by socioeconomic status and by age; 2) examine race differences in men's health status, health behaviors, and health utilization; and 3) determine if there are race differences among men in costs associated with key health conditions including asthma, type II diabetes, and hypertension. Awareness of differences by race in the health indicators and healthcare cost for men may help to initiate interventions and health promoting strategies to reduce/eliminate race disparities in the men's health in Baltimore. Findings may also be used to inform program planning and policy development that focuses on men.