Community Focus

Faculty Highlight

This month, the Prevention Research Center is proud to highlight the community-based, community-engaged research of Cheryl Holt, PhD and her team in Behavioral and Community Health (BCH). In this edition, we highlight her work to address gaps in translating evidence-based research into effective cancer control interventions within the African American, faith-based community. Dr. Holt’s recent work with Project HEAL (Health through Early Awareness and Learning) aims at comparing the efficacy of in-person training for Community Health Advisors (CHAs) with a technology-based training using a web portal. A randomized study was conducted with 15 churches and 36 CHAs. Results from this study indicate that both traditional in person and web based methods lead to the successful training and certification of lay CHAs and both methods let to the successful delivery of CHA-led cancer educational workshops. To read the full article and to learn more about Project HEAL, visit the PRC website:
http://sph.umd.edu/center/PRC


Who Shot Ya?

Recently, both local and national news have been filled with details of excessive brutality by police against African American men. Unfortunately, specific data on exactly how many young men each year are shot by police is limited. Incidence data on men who enter the emergency room each year as a result of police brutality is equally scarce. Joseph Richardson, PhD, Associate Professor in African American Studies at UMD, is working to change this reality by encouraging hospitals to collect contextual data on those who enter hospital emergency rooms and trauma units. “Who Shot Ya?” is the title of a presentation he will provide in September during the National Network of Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs. In his presentation, Dr. Richardson will include his current work collecting data on risk factors for recurrent visits to the emergency room for young men in Prince George’s County. In addition to his upcoming presentation on this important public health issue, Dr. Richardson has been working on a number of publications, including an article for an upcoming edition of the Journal of Urban Health. The PRC will include links to these publications as soon as they become available.