UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER  
Eliminating Health Disparities in Maryland Along the National Capital Border

OUR MISSION  
To eliminate health disparities in Maryland along the national capital border, which is the area in Prince George's County, Maryland between the "National Capital Beltway," the District of Columbia, and Montgomery County, Maryland. This area is specifically targeted for community health improvement because this region is chronically underserved by health care providers and resources, and has disproportionately high rates of syphilis, HIV, obesity, stroke, hypertension, diabetes, low birth weight, and other health problems compared to neighboring jurisdictions.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES  
CORE RESEARCH  
UMD-PRC Core Research is funded and monitored by the CDC National Prevention Research Center Program.

Key Projects: Prince George's County STD/HIV Prevention Stakeholder Interview Project, Cross-Border STD/HIV Prevention Organization Assessment Project, Assessing Cross-Border HIV Care, and Reducing Emergency Room Re-admission through Primary Care Health Literacy.

Key Faculty Researchers: Bradley Boekeloo (Principal Investigator), Min Qi Wang (Co-Investigator), Sharon Desmond (Co-Investigator), Linda Aldoory (Co-Investigator), Denise Bellows (Faculty Research Assistant).

Key Community Partners: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Prince George's County Health Department, Seat Pleasant-University of Maryland Health Partnership, Seat Pleasant Office of the Mayor, Sexually Transmitted Infections Community Coalition of Metropolitan Washington, Heart to Hand, Inc., and Dimensions Healthcare System.
UMD-PRC SEED MONEY RESEARCH
UMD-PRC Seed Money Research is funded by UMD-PRC discretionary funds for projects involving a University of Maryland researcher and a community-based partner.

- **Boys Healthy Dating Relationship Study**
  - Dr. Donna Howard
  - *Department of Behavioral and Community Health*
  - Mr. Irwin Royster
  - *Planned Parenthood*

- **Exploring Recurrent Violent Trauma, Linkages to Care and HIV Risk Related Behaviors**
  - Dr. Joseph Richardson
  - *Department of African-American Studies*
  - Dr. Carnell Cooper
  - *University of Maryland Medical Center*
  - *and trauma surgeon, Prince George's Hospital Center*

- **Mobilizing Elementary School Parent Networks for Obesity Prevention**
  - Dr. Brit Saksvig
  - *Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics*
  - Ms. Denise Lynch
  - *Principal, Bradbury Heights Elementary School*

UMD-PRC EXTENSION RESEARCH
UMD-PRC Extension Research is conducted by UMD-PRC core research staff but is not funded by the CDC National Prevention Research Center Program. Themes include:

- Increasing high-achieving, underprivileged high school student admission into college health science programs
- Assessing the healthcare needs of persons living with HIV in Prince George's County
- Examining the opportunities and challenges of smartphone mobile applications for HIV testing and linkage to care of persons living with HIV
- Developing the State of Maryland HIV Prevention Plan
- Evaluating a substance use and sexual health intervention for high risk African American women.

**Key Community Partners:** Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Prince George's County Health Department, Seat Pleasant community Campus Partnership for Health, Inc., Seat Pleasant Office of the Mayor, Sexually Transmitted Infections Community Coalition of Metropolitan Washington, Heart to Hand, Inc., Institute for Public Health Innovation, Community Education Group, Dimensions Healthcare System, Greater Baden Medical Services, Johns Hopkins Medical Health Center, Suitland Technology Education Engagement Center.

**Key Projects and Funding Sources:**
- **Climbing Up and Reaching Back:** Ladder of Support for Biomedical and Behavioral Science Careers (National Institute of General Medical Sciences), HIV Care Coordination (Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene), Substance Abuse and HIV Integrated Service for African American Females (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

- **Total Health Partners:** Linkage to Care (Kaiser Permanente) and Retention in Care (AIDS United), Patient Engagement (Family and Medical Counseling Services), Patient Engagement (Consumer Health Foundation), Mandate (UMD-Prevention Research Center), CREATE (UMD-Prevention Research Center).

ABOUT THE PRC
The UMD PRC has over 30 affiliate faculty members whose research informs and extends our mission and impact. Their areas of expertise include smoking cessation and prevention, health literacy, military families/veterans health, environmental health, family health, cancer epidemiology, patient/provider communications, health services and policy. A complete list of these researchers and their focus areas can be found on our website at http://sph.umd.edu/umdprc.