Our mission is to develop models of disease prevention and health promotion through community-based participatory research (CBPR). CBPR is conducted by University of Maryland faculty and staff members in partnership with community stakeholders during all phases of the research.

REDUCING HEALTH DISPARITIES IN MARYLAND ALONG THE NATIONAL CAPITAL BORDER

The national capital border area in Prince George’s County, Maryland between the “National Capital Beltway,” the District of Columbia, and Montgomery County, Maryland 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 primary syphilis, HIV, obesity, stroke, hypertension, diabetes, low birth weight, and other health problems compared to neighboring jurisdictions.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Principal Investigator: Bradley Boekeloo (pictured above on left with Eugene Grant, Mayor of the city of Seat Pleasant, Maryland)
Evaluation Coordinator: Olivia Carter-Pokras
Community Engagement Coordinator: Suzanne Randolph
Communications/Dissemination Coordinator: Min Qi Wang
Research Methods Coordinator: Mei-Ling Lee
National Community Committee Representatives: Chikezie Maduka, Suzanne Randolph

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

Theme: Reducing health disparities in Maryland along the national capital border
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.
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).

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

CURRENT 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: 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, and Evaluating a substance use and sexual health intervention for high risk African American women.
Key Community Partners: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), 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, Community Education Group, Dimensions Healthcare System, Greater Baden Medical Services, and 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 for General Medical Sciences), HIV Care Coordination (DHMH), Smartphone Mobile HIV Applications for African American Men (CDC-under review), Substance Abuse and HIV Integrated Service for African American Females (SAMHSA), and the Maryland HIV Prevention Plan (DHMH).

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 sph.umd.edu/umdprc.