

Spring 2020



# Emory Prevention Research Center



**Hello Colleagues, Partners and Friends!** We here at the Emory Prevention Research Center are both excited and saddened this spring as we send out our first newsletter after a several year hiatus. As many of you know, we received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to rejoin the national Prevention Research Center network. We thank you all, especially our Southwest Georgia and 2-1-1 partners for their support and enthusiasm for continuing our collaborations. That made this next phase possible and we have lots of exciting plans.

What saddens us is the horrific toll COVID-19 is taking in our country and state, but more specifically in Southwest Georgia. We are reading about our partner communities in the national news and hearing firsthand stories about its impact. We are hopeful that the national discussion about inequities will lead to real action that improves lives. Additionally, we hope the spotlight on our partner community draws resources to the region to address the impact and underlying causes of deep-seated inequities playing out in real-time. We look forward to collaboratively figuring out how prevention research can help to make a difference in Georgia.

This new funding from CDC allows us to:

- Re-energize our Community Advisory Board with new members
- Conduct a research project to test whether our Healthy Homes/Healthy Families intervention remains effective when delivered by telephone to 2-1-1 callers from a large region of the state (see story titled, **EPRC Core Project**)
- Conduct trainings for community-based practitioners on grant-writing and community assessment via webinar and in-person
- Form a Stakeholder Advisory Board for Translation with regional, state and national partners to help disseminate our research for increased public health impact and to generate new research questions and projects
- Obtain additional funds from CDC for Special Interest Projects, especially for the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (see story titled, **Addressing HPV Vaccination in Southwest GA: The Emory CPRN** )
- Deepen our partnership with Horizons Community Solutions and United Way of Greater Atlanta 2-1-1, and form new partnership with the United Way of Southwest Georgia, United Way of Central Georgia, and the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley 2-1-1s
- For more information about these projects, please visit our website: <http://web1.sph.emory.edu/eprc/index.html>. We look forward to working with all of our partners to prevent cancer and chronic disease, especially in rural Georgia, over the next few years.

**EPRC Community Advisory Board Chair,  
Darrell Saabs, is 2020 Joseph D. Greene  
Community Service Award Recipient**

At every biennial *Connections* conference, Healthcare Georgia Foundation delights in recognizing groups of individuals who are committed to improving the quality of health and healthcare of those they serve. The hard work and dedication of these heroes makes a difference in the quality of life of all Georgians, and it is our privilege to champion their efforts.

CLICK to  
learn more  
about the  
award and  
recipients!



### **EPRC Core Project**

The new EPRC Core project is based on our research-tested intervention: Healthy Homes/Healthy Families. The intervention was developed in partnership with the EPRC's Community Advisory Board and Horizons Community Solutions. The intervention helps participants make healthy changes in their homes, improve the quality of their diet, and consume fewer calories. To reach more people with this beneficial program, we adapted the program to collaborate with 2-1-1. 2-1-1 is an information and referral system that

connects callers to community resources. For our core research project we have partnered with United Way 2-1-1s in Southwest Georgia, Greater Atlanta, Central Georgia, and the Chattahoochee Valley to test the effectiveness of using the 2-1-1 system to help prevent weight gain and chronic diseases.

[READ MORE!](#)

### WHAT DID WE WANT TO KNOW AND WHY?

Adults in the United States:



Spend a significant amount of time at home.



Consume most of their calories at home.



Gain about 1 pound per year, increasing risk for diabetes, coronary heart disease, and cancer.

So we wanted to know:

Does an intervention targeting the home environment prevent weight gain?

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**Addressing HPV vaccination in Southwest Georgia:  
The Emory CPRN**

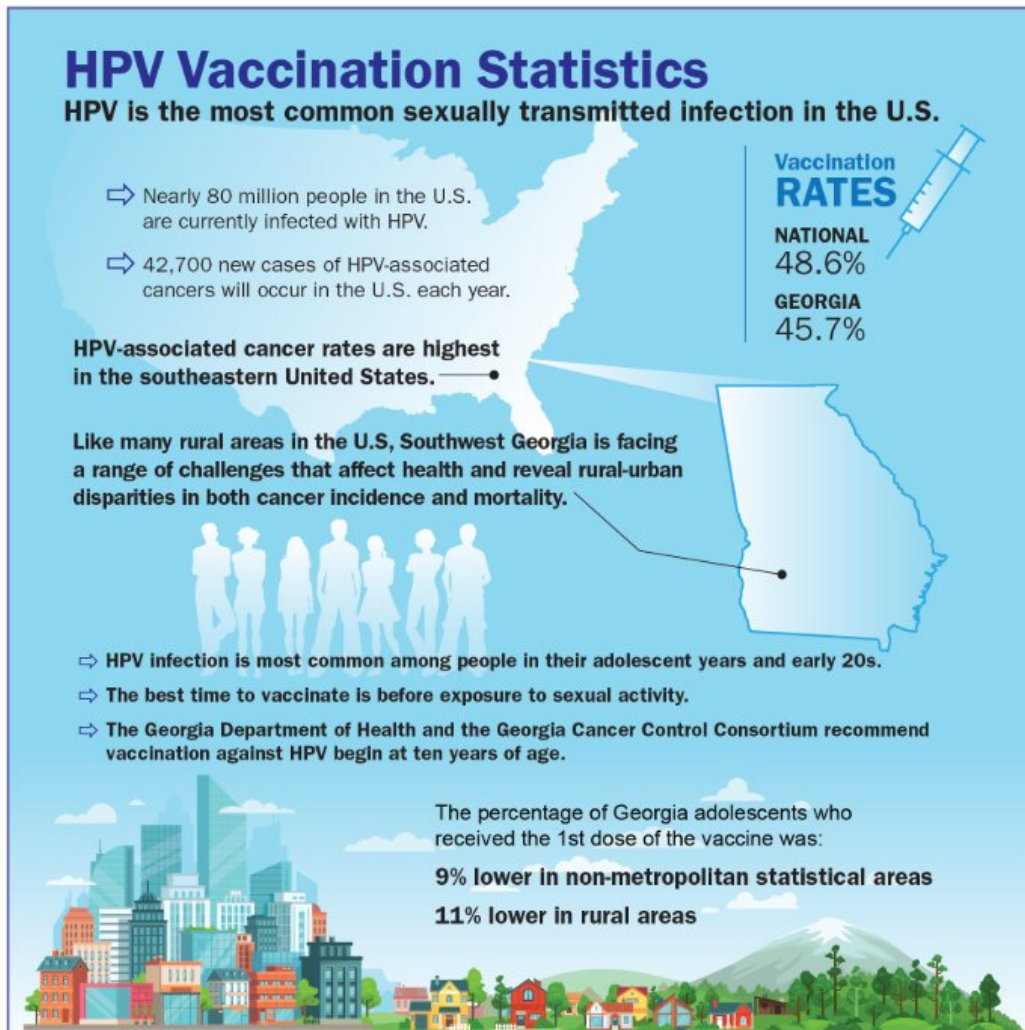


The Emory **Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN)**, funded by CDC as a Special Interest Project, will implement a series of projects related to the Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination over the next 5 years. Dr. Cam Escoffery is the lead researcher from the Rollins School of Public Health and other investigators include Drs. Michelle Kegler, Robert Bednarczyk, Sarah Blake and Kate Yeager. The CPCRN's research will be guided by the EPRC's Community Advisory Board (CAB).

This first year, the Emory CPCRN will conduct a qualitative study in Southwest Georgia that will focus on awareness and attitudes about the HPV vaccine, facilitators, and barriers to getting the vaccine, and recommended strategies to increase vaccination among rural families. CAB members will help recruit parents of young adolescents, community organizations, health departments and clinics in Southwest Georgia for organizational interviews. Thirty interviews will be conducted with parents who have and have not vaccinated their teens, older adolescents, young adults, health and social services providers.

The information gathered will highlight common reasons for getting vaccinated and inform strategies and the creation of messaging to increase the uptake of the HPV

vaccine in Georgia. In future years, we will evaluate a multi-level intervention that will include mini-grants and technical assistance with the goal of increasing HPV vaccinations in the region. Mini-grants will go to a range of partners, such as Federally Qualified Health Centers, Title X clinics, health departments and community-based organizations in Southwest Georgia that are uniquely positioned to spread the benefits of community-based prevention.



[\*\*\*HPV Cancer Free GA\*\*\*](#) website, hosted by Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute and Rollins School of Public Health, offers a comprehensive look at HPV with a focus on the state of Georgia. The site offers county level vaccination coverage data for males and females and highlights community-based organizations in Georgia working to eliminate cancer caused by HPV.

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