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To: mlgiarra@gmail.com



Summer 2023



Emory Prevention
Research Center

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Research in Georgia and Beyond

In This Newsletter:

- Small Grants
- EPRC Research Summit
- Infographics

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EPRC Small Grants

A total of \$120,000 in grants is awarded under EPRC's small grants program for community initiatives that enhance rural Georgia's quality of life.



Healthy Homes
Healthy Families

The Emory Prevention Research Center (EPRC) awarded its 2023-24 Healthy Homes/Healthy Families Small Grants this May to nonprofits and individuals dedicated to leading initiatives that increase access to healthy foods, improve nutrition, and promote healthy living. This phase of our study aims to identify effective models for scaling up Healthy Homes/Healthy Families (HH/HF) to address the Social Determinants of Health.

Through the continued support of the CDC, the Emory Prevention Research Center awarded seven grants totaling \$120,000 to recipients. Funding of up to \$10,000 will be provided to community organizations, and up to \$35,000 will be provided to 2-1-1 United Way Agencies (with identified community programs) for the delivery of the HH/HF program. Similar to our current study, the intervention will include a survey

HH/HF program. Similar to our current study, the intervention will include a survey about the home food environment, a tailored home food environment profile, six coaching sessions and six text messages supporting families to structure their home food environment to promote healthy eating.

All seven awardees serve Georgia:

- Randolph County Family Connection, Inc.
- Valley Healthcare Systems
- Mount Zion Community Reinvestment Corporation
- The Food Mill
- Albany State University
- United Way of Southwest GA (Albany)
- United Way of Central GA (Macon)

[Click here to learn how these organizations plan to integrate HH/HF](#)



In the next few weeks, we will hold a 2-day virtual training where all the sites can collaborate and strategize with each other on how to deliver the program within their respective communities.

As part of the mini-grant program, the EPRC will provide a manual and evaluate the implementation of the intervention to help recipients with implementation. Additionally, the EPRC will offer technical assistance (TA) on a bimonthly basis throughout the grant term. A post-grant assessment will be conducted to determine how well the program aligns with ongoing healthy living efforts, facilitators and barriers to program implementation, and changes made to the program, if any.

Our team is looking forward to the impact these programs will have on healthy eating and weight gain prevention practices among Georgia families, and hope they can be sustained within these organizations beyond the grant term. Our Georgia and United Way 2-1-1 partners are greatly appreciated for their continuous support.

SPECIAL THANKS

HPV Vaccine Small Grants

The Emory Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN) launched the HPV Vaccine Mini-grant Program in December of 2022. Four county health departments (Baker

Human Papillomavirus Vaccination

County health departments (Baker, Dougherty, Mitchell and Seminole) were awarded up to \$10,000 to implement a multi-level intervention to increase the uptake of the HPV vaccine (initiation and completion rates) in southwest Georgia. All four county health departments chose to implement evidence-based strategies with at least two out of the three levels of influence (individual/patient, provider, or health systems level). All sites are implementing strategies at the individual level and one site is implementing all three levels!



At the kickoff meeting in December, we had a training about HPV vaccination in Georgia delivered by Dr. Bob Bednarczyk. Dr. Cam Escoffery and Courtney Petagna, Project Coordinator, provided training on evidence-based practices. We also offered a toolkit which encompasses evidence-based strategies for all three levels from reputable sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), HPV Roundtable, and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The grantees used the resources in the toolkit to assist with their multi-level intervention and developed strategies to implement.

In addition to the funds and the toolkit the Emory CPRN has been providing technical assistance (TA) calls every other month since January to each site individually. During the off months, we host a learning collaborative meeting where all four sites communicate and strategize with each other on their multi-level intervention.

HPV Vaccine Reminder

Baker County Health Department

Protect yourself! Get all doses

Clinic Phone Number: 229-734-5226

1st	Date of 1st dose
2nd	Date of 2nd dose
3rd	Date of 3rd dose <small>6 months after 1st dose</small>

*3rd vaccine schedule is for individuals who began the series at 15 years or older



One evidence-based individual level strategy that was addressed were patient reminders. Each site wanted to create their own patient reminders, so Emory CPRN created individual patient reminder magnets and HPV vaccine informational cards for all the county health departments. The TA and learning collaborative calls will continue for the rest of the year. Starting in January 2024, Emory CPRN will evaluate how each site implemented their multi-level intervention and will share lessons learned from this mini-grants program.

EPRC Research Summit: Sharing Research Projects and Community Voices



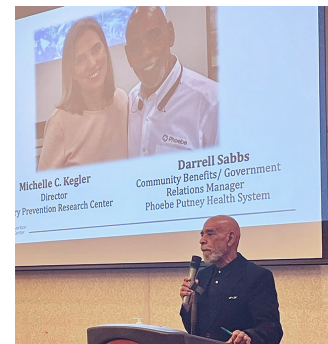
The EPRC held its 2023 Research Summit at the Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center on November 9, 2022. The purpose of the research summit was threefold:

Learn about EPRC public health research, tools and resources

Network with others who share your health promotion interests

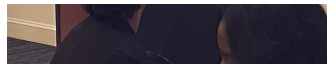
Generate ideas for future collaboration

Dr. Michelle Kegler, EPRC Director, gave an Overview of the EPRC. We then had a roundtable session where participants could visit different tables that provided information and results on EPRC-related research. We also provided collaborative opportunities for community organizations such as mini-grants or program evaluation. The topics for the roundtables were Healthy Homes/Healthy Families, COVID/VaxUp Project, Two Georgias Initiative, Smoke-free homes/BreatheEasy, Evaluability Assessment, and Faith Based Initiatives/Mini-Grants.





Dr. Michelle Kegler, EPRC



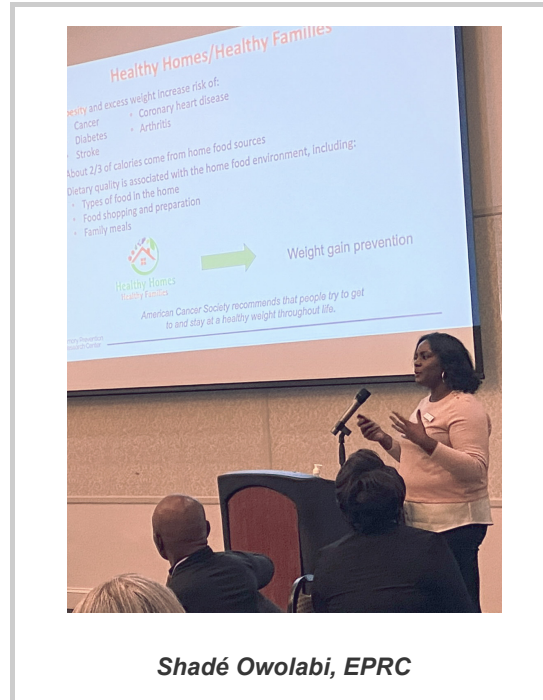
**Jennifer Johnston, Horizons
Community Solutions**



**Darrell Sabbs, Phoebe Putney
Hospital**



Dr. Kuanita Murphy, EPRC CAB



Shadé Owolabi, EPRC

We also conducted a brief community assessment through a Community Voice activity. Participants were broken up into 3 groups where they discussed leading health issues in their communities and some of the factors leading to those issues. The groups then prioritized some of the leading issues and/or factors. We then reconvened and shared the notes from each group. Some of these themes are presented in the Table below.

Top Health Issues in the Community	Factors leading to these Health Issues
Quality Healthcare (e.g. access, no specialists, mistrust, limited choices)	Access to quality healthcare: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No PCP Poverty Transportation Lack of Providers and specialists Trust and racial biases
Mental Health (including social and emotional)	Cost/Economy/Cost of Living/Income
Obesity (including childhood)	Lack of education/info/knowledge Misinformation Education/Methods of delivering information

Cancer/Cancer Screening	Food desert/access to healthy food
Diabetes	Transportation
Poverty (generational)	
Maternal/child health/Teen pregnancy prevention/sexual health	
Vaccines(general)	
Physical Activity	
Substance abuse (alcohol)	



Exhibit Table of various programs and resources

The Exhibit Table in the foyer held materials and tools related to various programs and projects including:

- Healthy Homes Healthy Families
- COVID/VaxUp Project
- Two Georgias Initiative
- Smoke-Free Homes/Breathe Easy
- Evaluability Assessment
- Faith-Based Initiatives/Mini-Grants
- Annual EPRC trainings
- EPRC Community Advisory Board



Roundtable discussion featuring the Healthy Homes/Healthy Families program



Dr. Cam Escoffery, Associate Director of the EPRC, facilitates a Community Voices session

The Research Summit was a success with 45 community members and partners attending, in addition to 11 Emory affiliated individuals, and 2 CDC representatives. According to the evaluation results, approximately 86% of survey respondents indicated that they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the EPRC Research Summit. Nearly 90% of respondents also indicated that they either 'agree' or

'strongly agree' that the summit's threefold objectives were met.

When asked what was most enjoyable about the summit, participants responded as follows:

" I loved the exhibit table that gave more information regarding the roundtables we didn't get to participate in. "

" The opportunity to exchange ideas face-to-face with other participants. "

" I enjoyed the breakout session (community voices) to learn more about what others thought the major health concerns were in our area. "

When asked what participants would take away from the event, survey respondents answered with:

" There are a number of opportunities to network and also the vast resource the EPRC offers. "

" The importance of collaborating in rural areas. "

" To look more at the social determinants of health and how to link people to different resources. "

The EPRC is grateful to be working with such wonderful community members and partners and we look forward to continued engagement with communities in Southwest Georgia in the next year.





Two Georgias Initiative Infographics

The Two Georgias Initiative was a 5-year effort funded by the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, funding local coalitions to address health equity across rural Georgia. The EPRC served as the initiative's evaluator and collected baseline data about **food security, food access, healthy eating, physical activity, health, well-being, and social capital** in SW Georgia. Read more about the results in our two infographics below.

Research done in collaboration with our partners in Southwest Georgia

Healthy Eating and Physical Activity in Southwest Georgia

THE TWO GEORGIAS INITIATIVE
PLACES SAFETY, ADDRESSING HEALTH EQUITY IN RURAL

What did we want to know?

- The Two Georgias Initiative was a 5-year effort funded by the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, funding local coalitions to address health equity across rural Georgia.
- The EPRC wanted to know baseline levels on a range of topics prioritized by the local coalitions.

What did we do?

- We conducted a survey with households in 11 counties across Georgia.
- We received 1103 responses from 5 Southwest Georgia counties. Their responses are reported here.
- Cook, Clay, Decatur, and Early counties responded to questions about food security, food access, and healthy eating.
- Clay, Decatur, and Miller counties responded to questions about physical activity.

What did we find?

Food Security and Access

[View Infographic](#)

Research done in collaboration with our partners in Southwest Georgia

Health, Well-being, and Social Capital in Southwest Georgia

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What did we find?

Health and Well-Being

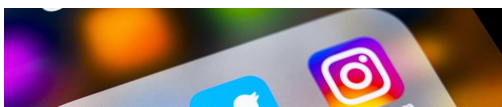
Health Status

Health Status	Percentage
1	22%
2	50%
3	29%
4	17%

[View Infographic](#)

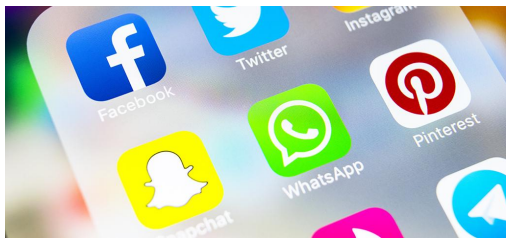
We create infographics to make it easier to learn about our research.

[Find them on our website](#)



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