

National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership Application

Applicant Organization:

Urban Health Collaborative, Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University

Organization Website:

<http://drexel.edu/UHC/>

Main Contact for NNIP:

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Organizational Structure:

The Urban Health Collaborative (UHC) is an interdisciplinary research, policy, community outreach, and training center at Drexel University's Dornsife School of Public Health (DSPH). The DSPH is an accredited school of public health that provides education, conducts research, and partners with communities and other organizations to improve the health of populations.

Mission:

The Drexel Urban Health Collaborative works to improve health in cities by increasing scientific knowledge and public awareness of health and health variation within cities, and by promoting urban policies and partnerships that promote health and reduce health inequalities.

The UHC is committed to:

- generating information on the magnitude and causes of urban health problems that are useful to city residents, and policy makers (data for action), including comparative data across neighborhoods that can be used to motivate local action and healthy policies (place-based approaches);
- identifying the interventions and policies best suited to improving health and eliminating health inequalities, including generating the evidence base for these actions and rigorously evaluating interventions and policies after they are implemented (evidence

- for policy);
- engaging with communities, government, non profits, businesses, and other stakeholders in order to increase awareness of urban health issues and translate evidence into effective action (community and policy-maker engagement).

Current Geographic Area of Focus:

UHC activities currently focus on Philadelphia and the metropolitan region around Philadelphia using the broadest geographic definition. The UHC defines this as the Philadelphia-Camden-Vineland Combined Statistical Area (PCV-CSA) and Mercer County, NJ (where Trenton, NJ is located) to make up the Philadelphia-Camden- Vineland-Mercer area (PCVM). In addition to the central city of Philadelphia the region includes some counties in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey and smaller cities facing many of the same urban health challenges as Philadelphia.

Current Staffing:

Total Organization Size: 14 FT staff + 11 PT master's students +10 doctoral trainees + 4 postdoctoral fellows + 8 faculty core members

As of October 2017, the UHC is supported by 8 faculty members that lead the UHC's four cores, plus a faculty affiliate and student trainee representative on the steering committee. The UHC is staffed by 14 full-time staff members, 4 postdoctoral researchers, 10 doctoral students, and 11 part-time master's student research assistants. At any given time about half of our work is focused on Philadelphia data and data services and half is focused more generally on urban health issues or national or international in scope, but this shifts with various grant funding over time. In addition, the UHC is supported by the resources available at the DSPH and Drexel University. The UHC is also formally incorporating faculty affiliates from DSPH and elsewhere throughout Drexel in research projects and activities. Currently there are 26 faculty affiliates.

UHC Core Leads and Steering Committee:

Ana Diez Roux, MD, PhD, MPH, Director; Dean and Distinguished University Professor of Epidemiology, DSPH

Gina Lovasi, PhD, MPH, Co-Director; Dornsife Associate Professor of Urban Health, DSPH

Amy Auchincloss, PhD, MPH, Research and Data Core Co-lead; Associate Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, DSPH

James Buehler, MD, Research and Data Core Co-lead; Clinical Professor, Health Management and Policy, DSPH

Amy Carroll-Scott, PhD, MPH, Policy and Community Engagement Core Co-lead; Assistant Professor, Community Health and Prevention, DSPH

Jennifer Kolker, MPH, Policy and Community Engagement Core Co-lead; Associate Teaching Professor, Health Management and Policy, Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, Co-Director, Pennsylvania Public Health Training Center, DSPH

Félice Lê-Scherban, PhD, MPH, Training Core Co-lead; Assistant Professor,

Epidemiology and Biostatistics, DSPH

Yvonne Michael, ScD, SM, Training Core Co-lead; Associate Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs, DSPH

John Rich, MD, MPH, Faculty Affiliate; Professor, Health Management and Policy, Co-Director, Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice, DSPH

Samantha Joseph, MPH, DrPHc, UHC Doctoral Research Fellow; Doctoral Candidate, Community Health and Prevention, DSPH

Amy Confair, MPH, UHC Outreach and Training Manager

Katie Livengood, MPH, UHC Project Manager

Staff (in alphabetical order):

Felicia “Jody” Bayer, PhD, CRNP-BC, Research Coordinator Ashley

Carelock, MA, Communications Manager

Autumn Ciarrocchi, Business Manager

Amy Confair, MPH, Outreach and Training Manager Seraphina

Ferraro, MA, Project Assistant

Erikka Gilliam, MS, MPH, Data Manager, Promise Neighborhood

Adriana Lein, MS, Communications and Outreach Specialist, SALURBAL

Katie Livengood, MPH, Project Manager

Steven Melly, MS, MA, Geographic Information System (GIS) Analyst Kari

Moore, MS, Senior Data Analyst

Paramdeep Singh, B.Tech, MPA, Data Analyst, SALURBAL

Claire Slesinski, MSPH, Project Manager, SALURBAL

Kelley Traister, MSW, Project Manager, Promise Neighborhood

Yuzhe Zhao, MS, Data Analyst

Current Major Funding (Funding sources and total organization budget):

The UHC is funded by internal university funding and gifts to the Dornsife School of Public Health and external state, federal, and international research grants and contracts (government and charity). The budget for core staff and operating expenses for this year is approximately \$900,000. The UHC has received approximately \$630,000 in research funding this year. At any given time about half of our funding is focused on Philadelphia data and data services and half is focused on urban health nationally or internationally, but this shifts with various grant funding over time.

Total: \$1,530,000

Board/Advisory Board Composition (List members and affiliations):

The UHC is currently managed by a steering committee comprised of faculty core leads and senior staff members. Each core has additional advisors based on individual projects and a formal advisory board will be developed in 2017. Some potential members are from the Dornsife School of Public Health, other areas of Drexel University, local community-based organizations, hospitals, research organizations, and city government.

History:

The Urban Health Collaborative was created at the Dornsife School of Public Health (DSPH) in 2014 under the leadership of Ana Diez Roux, Dean of DSPH, who is known internationally for her research on neighborhood health effects, health disparities, and population health. The UHC was formally launched at DSPH's urban health symposium in September 2015 entitled "*Reimagining Health in Cities: New Directions in Urban Health Research and Action.*"

In Fall 2015, Drexel University's School of Public Health was named the Dana and David Dornsife School of Public Health in honor of a transformative gift from philanthropists Dana and David Dornsife, to allow the Dornsife School to strengthen its expertise, infrastructure and visibility in urban health, attract and retain top faculty who will contribute to its urban health mission and enhance educational programs and research productivity. The Dornsife gift has allowed the Urban Health Collaborative to expand and initiate new activities to achieve its mission such as funding pilot projects to promote research using UHC data sources and supporting student community-based urban health practicums and doctoral students.

In 2016, the UHC formalized its structure by establishing four Cores: an **Administrative Core, Research and Data Core, Policy and Community Engagement Core, and Training Core**. The **Administrative Core** provides administrative, programmatic and budgetary oversight to the Collaborative. The **Research and Data Core** compiles, processes, and analyzes data on health in cities with a special focus on health in the Philadelphia area, and provides expertise on the characterization of urban health and urban neighborhood environments. It also provides GIS and statistical support for urban health projects and supports research on urban health locally and globally through in-person and online workshops and courses. The **Training Core** develops and coordinates training opportunities for students interested in urban health and related areas through funded research fellowships for Drexel graduate students, summer courses and workshop series of various types and lengths that are open to internal and external participants. Lastly, the **Policy and Community Engagement Core** partners with local stakeholders, community groups and policy makers to disseminate and translate UHC research and evidence on urban health and policies, to improve urban health and reduce health inequalities.

Through its various cores UHC provides administrative, technical, and analytical support as well as data to urban health related projects relevant to the UHC mission. The UHC compiles and processes geographically referenced and spatial data for research and provides expertise to the local community and policy makers. In 2015- 2016, the UHC initiated several new projects. Staff began collecting and documenting neighborhood and health outcome data sources for the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Summer courses were piloted for Drexel students and local public health professionals.

The UHC also began working directly with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and other city agencies, funding local pilot projects at DSPH, and collaborating with local

community groups (see further sections for more detail on projects and future goals).

The Urban Health Collaborative builds on the established expertise and partnerships of DSPH faculty with other units of Drexel, local, state and federal government, other academic groups in the region, health systems, and non- governmental organizations. The school has a deep and wide network of partnerships and deep ties to the community, which benefit the Urban Health Collaborative's data, research and community outreach enterprise.

In addition, the UHC connects with similar urban health initiatives around the globe, particularly in Latin America through the Latin American and the Caribbean Urban Health Network (LAC Urban Health). The network was convened 2015-2016 by the Dornsife School of Public Health in partnership with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations University: International Institute for Global Health. This benefits our local work in Philadelphia by allowing us to learn from other cities. Each city in the network has different circumstances and the partners share experiences about what challenges they are facing, what has worked, and what they are currently trying.

Local Data Intermediary Activities

The UHC's mission aligns closely with the NNIP partner activities.

1) Assemble, Transform, and Maintain Data:

Building and operating an information system with recurrently updated data on neighborhood conditions across topics in the local area

The UHC gathers data on the neighborhood level of the drivers of health (health determinants) and on health outcomes. Understanding the determinants of health means drawing data and expertise from a variety of sectors including city planning, laws and regulations, education, employment, housing, and other social and economic forces, to name a few. It is our goal to gather information from as many sources as possible, compiling data on all health determinants at the neighborhood level, and facilitate the use of that data in conjunction with each other. The Research and Data Core has already begun compiling freely available data and purchasing additional neighborhood level data for use in specific projects that are supported by the UHC. (Specific projects are described below.) Our data analysts maintain secure storage of all UHC data, and they are able to archive and reorganize storage systems as necessary.

These analysts are skilled at processing raw data and translating data into usable forms—creating different measures, or merging and linking multiple data sources to create a fuller, more accurate picture.

2) Disseminate Information and Apply the Data to Achieve Impact:

Facilitating and promoting the direct, practical use of data by community and government leaders in community building and local policymaking

The goal of the UHC is to bring research evidence to stakeholders who can use it to create change and improve population health. This includes building capacity at two levels by

bringing the evidence: 1) to policy makers, government stakeholders, program directors, and other decision makers to help inform health planning and policies, and 2) to community organizations, leaders, and residents to help them advocate for change in their neighborhoods. Improving the knowledge base from both directions is necessary to catalyze systematic change needed to improve population health.

UHC Steering Committee members have longstanding relationships with community members, non-profits, and government agencies. Most have been working in public health in Philadelphia for years and have cultivated relationships over time to increase the impact of their research and teaching. Steering committee members are connected with local civic associations, and others serve on the board of various organizations and the Department of Public Health. The UHC leverages these long term relationships as entry points and builds on that strong network to connect with the right stakeholders. The relationships with these stakeholders help guide the data priorities for the UHC.

One of the UHC's goals is to create data or community briefs that assure that the results from all supported research are accessible, understandable, and useable for community members. The UHC is already helping generate urgency around pressing topics by collaborating with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health to create policy briefs (described below) such as the most recent on the opioid epidemic in Philadelphia. We also completed another brief profiling the health status of the federally-designated Promise Zone area in West Philadelphia, compiling available data and creating neighborhood estimates.

Another way the UHC disseminates information to a wide variety of users is through our symposium and monthly research seminars. The symposium intentionally brings together researchers, practitioners, and policy makers from a variety of backgrounds to stimulate novel ideas for research, debates on policies and their implications for communities, and a sense of urgency for community actions. The UHC's monthly research seminars serve a similar purpose, though on a smaller scale, with a specific focus each month.

3) Use Data to Strengthen Civic Capacity and Governance Emphasizing the use of information to build the capacity of institutions and residents in distressed neighborhoods

The UHC generates evidence on the effects of living in distressed neighborhoods that can be used to advocate for community improvement. The UHC's neighborhood work is focused on our home city of Philadelphia with the mindset that our work locally can be used as a model for urban areas globally. Specifically, the UHC is located in West Philadelphia, and situated inside a designated federally Promise Zone (a federal initiative targeting neighborhoods that lack resources and face challenges associated with persistent poverty). Thus we are especially cognizant of the importance of assuring our work serves the interest of communities who need support most. In addition to our direct surroundings, as part of Drexel University we have strong connections to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, located in North Philadelphia, and Hahnemann University Hospital, both of which serve

patients and families from some of the poorest neighborhoods in Philadelphia.

The UHC is also supported by the missions of the Dornsife School of Public Health and Drexel University. A core value of the Dornsife School of Public Health is health as a human right and that health is a social justice issue. At the university level, the UHC is supported by the Strategic Plans of the University and the School and by President John Fry's commitment to make Drexel "the most civically engaged university."

The UHC is ensuring its data and resources are being used for community action and city policy through its Policy & Community Engagement Core. The purpose of this is to amplify the use of UHC data and expertise to promote community action and policy change. This will include cultivating research partnerships with policymakers, government, non-profit organizations, public health workforce, health care systems, and other academic units within Drexel and at other institutions. We will also work with our data resources and supported research projects to create user-friendly community and policy briefs, such as the Promise Zone health profile mentioned above, to put the information in the hands of those who will most use it for community health benefits.

Description of Projects:

Data Briefs, Policy Briefs, Community Briefs, and Neighborhood Profiles

The UHC is currently producing a variety of briefs – some are created to share data in a useable format, some are focused on providing consolidated information on urban health topics or issues, and some are health profiles of specific neighborhoods within Philadelphia. The UHC also supports the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) on select policy briefs for the city. The briefs present information to characterize population health problems and their determinants to inform public health policies and programs. The goals are to improve the assessment of public health problems, use data to identify opportunities to prevent illness, and communicate public health findings to the public, policy-makers, and the media. This exemplifies our commitment to "data for action," one of the UHC's core missions. To support this work, the UHC will acquire or develop data sets as needed on important health issues and examine neighborhood-based health determinants.

The UHC is also creating neighborhood health profiles for Philadelphia that focus on a core set of indicators. The first profile focused on the federally-designated Promise Zone in West Philadelphia and will be released in April 2017. Using a common set of indicators will allow for comparison as additional neighborhood profiles are created. The Policy and Community Engagement core aims to make the information easy to access and understand for a variety of audiences. We will share the profile with residents in community meetings and other settings and will discuss the data and how the community can use this profile to advocate for action.

Home Preservation Initiative (HPI)

The UHC is working with the Home Preservation Initiative (HPI), a collaborative effort that aims to provide high quality home repairs in an efficient, cost-effective manner within a targeted area of West Philadelphia. Home preservation and repairs was one of the critical needs identified by residents during a comprehensive neighborhood planning process. The HPI planning process and service delivery model for home repair and weatherization involves a consortium of community partners, Local Initiatives Support Corporation Philadelphia, Rebuilding Together Philadelphia, Mt. Vernon Manor CDC, the People's Emergency Center (PEC), Habitat for Humanity and representatives from Drexel University. The Urban Health Collaborative was approached as a partner to help the HPI group better understand and demonstrate the health effects of the program. The UHC designed a qualitative study to gather information from residents via interviews to inform the development of a quantitative study to collect pre- and post- data on health status to evaluate impact. The UHC led the implementation of this study and analyzed the results. Interviews were conducted by teams of public health research assistants and community members trained to conduct the interviews in partners by the UHC research team. The UHC aims to share information collected with the neighborhood and help the HPI group use the information collected to expand their catchment area for performing home repairs. Funds were allocated to develop a rotating Community Workshop that will take place in each of the four HPI target neighborhoods. In this workshop, HPI partners and other stakeholders will disseminate results from the UHC's findings of the qualitative analysis and engage in a discussion of the community perception of the results of this research, implications for HPI expansion and future evaluation. The goals of these workshops are to include HPI recipient and community perspectives in data interpretation, identify community priorities based on the results, and build community capacity to support a culture of health around current and pervasive concerns about housing affordability, quality, and imminent gentrification. The UHC also participates in the application and implementation of the RWJF County Health Rankings & Roadmaps coaching initiative for the project.

City Health Equity Evaluation

The City Health Equity Evaluation is a national project where the UHC is identifying activities being performed in cities throughout the US to achieve health equity and examine barriers and facilitators to these activities. The study uses a mixed methods research design that combines a telephone-based survey of city government officials, key informant interviews with city health department directors, and analysis of non-profit hospitals' community health needs assessment reports. The project will investigate research questions such as: How has RWJF's Culture of Health initiative influenced activities to achieve health equity in US cities; what activities do city government agencies perform with the explicit intent of achieving health equity, and how well to hospital CHNAs address health equity?

This project will enhance our local efforts by providing a platform and framework to

engage with the Philadelphia coalition of non-profit hospitals, which our Policy and Community Engagement core leads, Amy Carroll-Scott and Jennifer Kolker, are already engaged with. Our involvement with NNIP will help advance those partnerships by providing examples of similar work from other members.

Urban Health Collaborative Pilot Projects

In spring 2016 the UHC awarded funds to six pilot projects to promote urban health research. The research and data core at the UHC has partners with project investigators to provide data that is being collected on Philadelphia. (We are currently proposals that were submitted for our 2017 Call for pilot projects.)

One of the UHC pilot projects, *Using Data Integration to Create a Profile of Violence Needs and Assets to Inform Solutions in the Latino Community of Eastern North Philadelphia*, is led by co-lead Amy Carroll-Scott and supported by one of our UHC doctoral fellows with previous experience working for the community partner, Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Inc. The project aims to seek, integrate, and analyze data related to violent incidents, injuries, emotional trauma, legal consequences and individual and neighborhood risk factors. Data from the UHC, the community partner, and other sources is being collected at the tract level to create an inventory and map of community based assets and need to create a community violence profile. This project aims to address severe and persistent disparities in violence experienced by this Latino community by bringing together community and academic expertise in new ways. Congreso is a nonprofit community-based organization that has served the Latino community for 40 years. For this project, the primary role of Congreso was to provide program data related to violent incidents, injuries, emotional trauma, legal consequences, and individual and neighborhood- level risk factors from Congreso programs. In addition, scripted calls to over 40 local programs and stakeholders were used to incorporate their community expertise in assessing assets related to violence/crime prevention or recovery (e.g. programs, coalitions, community groups). Stakeholders were also invited to participate in community stakeholder meetings facilitated by the research team. This effort is aligned with the mission of the Urban Health Collaborative, as its goal is to apply scientific methods to increase scientific knowledge about violence in this urban community, and to use the resulting evidence to strategically raise awareness and promote new partnerships, policies, and programs to address this disparity. This community-partnered urban data project could be a model for Urban Health Collaborative research engagement with community-based organizations around novel uses of their existing data.

A second pilot project is led by co-lead Félice Lê-Scherban: *Intergenerational associations between adult past exposure to adverse childhood experiences and offspring child health outcomes: The Philadelphia Urban ACE Study* uses data from the Philadelphia Urban ACE Study, which was developed and spearheaded by the Philadelphia ACE Task Force. The ACE Task Force is a collaboration between medical and public health practitioners, researchers, and leaders in Philadelphia. It was formed to develop policies, practices, and research to mitigate conditions arising from toxic stressors and ACEs among children living in Philadelphia and their families. Dr. Lee Pachter, co-chair of the task force, is joint PI of the project with Dr. Le-Scherban. The project will use the existing network of the ACE task force as the primary means of dissemination to local audiences. Our goal is to utilize this network to share results of this preliminary study with local medical, public health, behavioral health, educational, and social service organizations in order to increase awareness of ACEs and their importance in children's health across generations. Ultimately, we hope to work with these organizations in the development of interventions to improve the health of children in Philadelphia by addressing the substantial burden of ACE exposure in their parents.

New Projects or topic areas being developed, data acquisition plans, etc.

The Research and Data Core plans to continue to expand and document the data resources available in Philadelphia and develop collaborations and partnerships internal and external to Drexel to utilize that data in research and other projects. The UHC has acquired birth and death registry data for the state of Pennsylvania and will continue to acquire and maintain other data as new topics arise. Although data may be gathered for specific projects, the UHC will maintain its inventory and update over time to expand use.

To improve comparisons across neighborhoods, where population sizes may be low affecting the reliability of data, the UHC is beginning a project that will use small area estimation statistical methods to estimate rates for various health metrics such as mortality, life expectancy, health behaviors (e.g. physical activity, diet, obesity), and other health outcomes (e.g. self-reported health, asthma) across the city of Philadelphia based on data from administrative and survey-based sources. These methods will provide more reliable estimates of health in neighborhoods where the sample is too small for direct reporting. More precise estimates will allow us to understand the spatial variation across the city, explore temporal trends, and examine associations of neighborhood-level health determinants with the spatial patterning of health.

In addition, the UHC is collaborating with Drexel College of Medicine (DUCoM) clinical investigators to explore associations between neighborhood attributes measured using various UHC data resources and clinical indicators derived from DUCoM electronic health records, such as diabetes and asthma control.

The UHC Training Core will continue expanding its offerings to train the next generation of public health professionals in how to generate neighborhood-level data and facilitate its use

among a wide range of stakeholders. The Training Core, building on the success of their two summer short courses in 2016, are offering four short courses in June 2017. Most of our participants in these summer courses are from Philadelphia or the local region. We especially market to those who use data to benefit the community. Also, arrangements are regularly made to provide discounted registration for local health department employees to build their capacity for using data in effective, meaningful, and inefficient ways. Graduate fellowship programs are also growing at the master's and doctoral levels to teach skills and methods for integrating and using neighborhood-level data. Many of our students work in Philadelphia communities and with local data.

Through the Policy and Community Engagement Core, the UHC has also been collaborating with local community groups, city agencies, and other researchers at city-wide Promise Zone meetings focused on health and wellness. Our role in the Promise Zone around data integration and indicators development is expanding greatly with the award of the Promise Neighborhoods grant for West Philadelphia. The UHC is the data systems lead for the Philadelphia Promise Neighborhoods project that targets children and their families living or going to school in the Promise Zone footprint. The UHC will be collecting primary data from individuals (surveys) representative at the school and neighborhood level, developing neighborhood indicators to track longitudinally, and integrating data at the student level from the School District of Philadelphia and City social and medical service systems. This contextual information about each child and his/her family will be shared with educational and behavioral service providers serving these children in order to inform case management - better identify children in need of services, create and tailor services to their needs, and coordinate services across providers.

The UHC will continue to expand its already strong connections and local collaborations. The Policy and Community and Engagement core will amplify the use of UHC data and expertise to promote community action and policy change. This will include cultivating research partnerships with policymakers, community advocacy organizations, public health workforce, health care systems, and other academic institutions. One way we are reaching out to community partners is conducting phone interviews with groups that have partnered with DSPH in the past, but may not have connected with the UHC yet.

We use these conversations as a way to 1) introduce the UHC, what we are doing, and the resources and support we can provide, and 2) ask what types of local data they use and what else they might be interested in, what their capacity is for using data and ways we might support them, and what are their top policy priorities and what we might do to help support policy improvements. We plan to conduct around 15 of these interviews and at the end of each interview we ask if they have colleagues at other organizations who they suggest we contact. As of March 2017 we completed 10 of these interviews and they have all been very informative.

In addition, the Policy and Community Engagement core will offer trainings for community partners to learn more about available data and how to use it for their benefit. Jennifer Kolker, co-lead for the Policy and Community Engagement core, is also the director of the

Local Performance Site of the HRSA-funded Mid-Atlantic Regional Public Health Training Center (PHTC). The PHTC provides training to the public health workforce broadly defined and collaborates with the UHC on trainings such as GIS, conducting Community Health Needs Assessments, and other areas related to urban health.

Local Environment for Community Information

Please describe your organization's relationship with city or county agencies, staff and elected officials around the use and application of neighborhood data. (E.g. recent projects or collaborations, briefings, requests for input or advice. Do not describe relationships only related to obtaining administrative data.):

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

There is an ongoing relationship between the DSPH and Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) to enhance the use and application of neighborhood data. For example, DSPH has worked with PDPH on various projects including evaluation of chronic disease programs through the Get Healthy Philly initiative and evaluating the PDPH salt reduction communication campaign. Researchers from DSPH and UHC are also working with the Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Transportation & Utilities (MOTU) and Bicycle Transit Systems which is overseeing Philadelphia's new bike share system to assess change in physical activity levels and self-reported bike-related injuries. The UHC is contributing neighborhood data on built environment resources like bike-lanes and individual data. Results from this evaluation will be able to provide local, regional, and national decision- and policy-makers with information that can be used to design better environmental strategies for obesity and chronic disease prevention in urban communities. In addition, from 2013-2014, Drexel was contracted by PDPH for the development of their Community Health Improvement Plan, a requirement of their submission for accreditation. Drexel worked with PDPH to present the results of their Community Health Assessment, a detailed data summary of 13 health indicators.

Currently, the UHC is partnering with PDPH on select policy briefs for Philadelphia, as described above.

Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services

As part of their role as evaluators of Philadelphia's citywide Mental Health First Aid training initiative, researchers from the UHC have developed a city-wide behavioral health indicators report in collaboration with the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities. The report includes indicators from multiple sources including the prevalence of mental health and substance use problems and diagnoses, treatment service utilization, and perceptions of stigma. Besides maintaining this report and updating it annually, we plan to create neighborhood-level behavioral health report cards.

Other

Drexel is a Local Performance Site of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Public Health Training Center, a HRSA-funded project aimed at improving the skills and knowledge of the

public health workforce. Through this work, core leads have developed strong relationships with local public health agencies in Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, and Chester Counties on a range of projects including preparation for PHAB accreditation, workforce needs assessments, and providing public health workforce training.

What other groups and organizations in your region perform NNIP functions? Please describe any current or past activities you have collaborated on with them.

The UHC has collaborated with many other data partners in the Philadelphia area, including:

- Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) - The City of Philadelphia produces annual Community Health Assessments reporting results at a planning district level. Data sources include data collected by PDPH departments, the School District of Philadelphia; Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC) Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Health Survey (HHS); Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4); Vital Statistics; Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT); and data collected by the CDC regionally.
- PHMC – A large nonprofit public health institute in the Philadelphia region that provides outreach, health promotion, education, research, planning, technical assistance, and direct services. We subscribe to the Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC) Community Health Data Base (CHDB). CHDB implements one of the longest running regional Household Health Surveys in the country, which collects information on more than 13,000 residents (children, adults, and seniors). We partnered with CHDB to gather specialized data to evaluate older adult mobility living in Philadelphia County in 2010 and 2014. These data have been used to evaluate the role of neighborhood amenities in maintenance of mobility among urban older adults. In addition, the DSPH has a relationship with PHMC to train their staff through our Executive MPH program and several PHMC leadership have affiliate faculty appointments with the school.
- OpenDataPhilly- OpenDataPhilly is a data portal that provides access to municipal and non-municipal data for the Philadelphia region. OpenDataPhilly aims to provide access to data to encourage transparent government and engage citizenry. The UHC utilizes data made available through OpenDataPhilly.
- City of Philadelphia, Health and Human Services, Data Management Office - collects, analyzes, and reports on social services data, including but not limited to: mental health, substance abuse, child welfare, juvenile justice, lead exposure, emergency shelter, and local incarceration. The goal of this centralized data management office is to provide public officials, policymakers, and practitioners with accurate, timely information to help them make data-driven decisions. The UHC is developing a close relationship with this office particularly through our work on the federal Promise

Neighborhoods grant that was recently funded. We directly collaborated on the application and this relationship will continue to foster as the Promise Neighborhoods project develops.

- Mayor's Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity (CEO) – The goal of this office is to combat poverty in our city, help Philadelphia's low- income residents realize economic security, and move into the middle class. The UHC has partnered with the Mayor's Office of CEO on Promise Zone initiatives including the recent Promise Neighborhood application, and this relationship will continue to develop through our role in the Promise Neighborhood work.
- PolicyMap – A for-profit resource that offers location data and a library of indicators from public and proprietary sources. PolicyMap is an initiative founded by The Reinvestment Fund, a CDFI focused on strategic investments, public policy, real estate development and data analysis. The UHC has an individual data subscription license and will consider future potential collaboration.
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) - The federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Philadelphia Region and connects elected officials, urban planners and the public. DVRPC provides access to data of regional resources related to transportation and land use and provides some mapping capabilities. The UHC compiles data made available by the DVRPC and is meeting with staff to establish future collaborations.
- LISC – One of the largest charitable organizations in the country that supports projects to revitalize communities including providing the capital, strategy and knowledge to local groups to support more affordable housing, better schools, safer streets, growing businesses and programs improving financial stability. Drexel University is a Core Partner for Philadelphia LISC, and the Dornsife School of Public Health has partnered with them on various projects in the past. Currently, the UHC is conducting an evaluation of the Home Preservation Initiative in West Philadelphia as described in projects above.
- Health Federation – The Health Federation of Philadelphia (HFP) the network of community health centers in Southeastern Pennsylvania, including the FQHC lookalike centers run by the City of Philadelphia. Drexel has had a longstanding partnership with HFP on various projects and student placement opportunities. Most recently, the UHC has engaged with HFP in determining potential data-related projects using their electronic health records.
- Philadelphia Research Initiative of Pew Charitable Trusts – The Pew Charitable Trusts conducts research on local issues and provides accessible reports to aid policy makers and community members in advocating for improvements. Jen Kolker, Co-Lead of the UHC Policy and Community

Engagement Core, has a relationship with Tom Ginsburg from Pew's Philadelphia Research Initiative, and set up a meeting between UHC faculty and Pew's Philadelphia Research Initiative to discuss in more detail the work of the UHC, our pending collaboration with NNIP, and new potential ways of collaborating.

Potential Relationship to NNIP

How do you expect NNIP membership would benefit your organization?

As a relatively new research center, joining a network conducting similar work around the country would provide us with experienced colleagues to advise us as we are growing our data inventory and refining our goals. We could gain valuable insight from partners who are further along in their neighborhood indicator work, and learn from their successes and challenges.

In addition, NNIP membership would provide a starting point from which to foster new research collaborations. We hope to build research partnerships with other NNIP members nationwide to conduct cross-city investigations and generate evidence towards our mission of improving health in cities. Exploring data across cities can reveal potential policy solutions.

Lastly, NNIP membership will help us advance our mission of bridging the gap between research and action. With our Policy & Community Engagement Core and Training Core, we aim to promote data for action by community and government leaders. Joining the NNIP will help us facilitate the translation of evidence into effective public health policies, programs and community building. NNIP membership will support this goal by providing us the opportunity to learn from other network members and the ways they have made data accessible to wider audiences. For example, we look forward to understanding how other groups share their data with community members and policy makers in user-friendly ways, and how some groups create electronic databases that can be updated regularly and thus providing accessible, up to date information for community and government partners. We are committed to making sure that our data is useful to those outside of academia, and as we nurture partnerships and develop collaborations among groups with aligning interests, we envision NNIP as a great place to share our ideas about this dissemination and translation work, and to solicit feedback from other groups who have done similar things.

What distinctive perspective, experience, or expertise can you contribute to the NNIP peer learning network?

The UHC brings a unique focus on cities and expertise in health disparities. Much of our work is focused on the rich urban environment of Philadelphia but we also aim to generate evidence to determine what makes cities healthier and equitable everywhere.

UHC research expertise is particularly focused on the social determinants of health, health disparities, and neighborhood health effects. Our team has substantial expertise in the measurement of neighborhood-level attributes in research studies that we are currently applying to the Philadelphia region. For example we have created measures on the social environment (including data on crime, safety, and social capital), built environment (public transportation, pedestrian street network, traffic, walk scores, land use, etc.), food environment (location of food stores and perceptions of the food environment), land environment (open space and tree canopy) and environmental exposures (air pollution, traffic,). We also have experience conducting research to link these health determinants with health outcome data through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping and multi-level as well as spatial analysis. Working with neighborhood leaders and community-based agencies to identify meaningful community health indicators and upstream causes that impact health will be the focus of our neighborhood indicator projects. This work will employ the expertise and staff of both the Policy & Community Engagement Core and the Training Core, as working in effective research partnerships with community entails co-learning about community priorities and research processes.

A major area of emphasis for the UHC also pertains to the links between urban planning and public health. UHC steering committee members and faculty from Drexel's Westphal College of Media Arts & Design participate in a Design & Health Research Consortium at Drexel to expand the knowledge base connecting the design and health disciplines, develop evidence-based practice tools, and propel public and policy demand for health-promoting places. At the same time, they will train undergraduate and graduate students, as well as community members and external partners, in design and health issues. For example, Yvonne Michael, Co-Lead for the UHC Training Core, is co-teaching a course in spring 2017 titled “

The UHC will also bring expertise and interest in linking the NNIP initiative to the broader movement in urban health occurring across the globe. Our faculty are involved in international urban health activities that include an emphasis on understanding the impact of urban neighborhoods on health and developing policy alternatives. For example, as part of our global health projection we have launched the Network for Urban Health in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to bring together public health practitioners, researcher, policy makers and communities to improve health in the cities of Latin American and the Caribbean. International connections may further enhance the impact of the NNIP.

As public health researchers within a school of public health, we have access to experts in public health research on a variety of urban health topics. In addition, our faculty researchers have long-standing relationships with local and regional health departments. This connection to the potential users of data equips us with a realistic understanding of their needs in professional practice. We strive for our work to have

community and policy impact and this connection to public health practitioners helps guide that impact.

We also bring the support of the larger Drexel community. Drexel was founded on the principle of innovation and preparing students to respond to the needs of a changing society. The university has a strong history in training students through experiential learning (professional co-ops), which connects our faculty and staff broadly to organizations and industry. In addition, much of the innovative research at Drexel comes from the support, encouragement, and financial incentives for community-based and community-partnered, and translational research meant to have a measurable impact in the community and in professional practice.

What is the relationship between the new organization and NNIP-related staff and the former organization and NNIP-related staff?

Jen Kolker and Amy Carroll-Scott (co leads for UHC's Policy and Community Engagement Core) met with Ira Goldstein in late January at The Reinvestment Fund, one of the former NNIP Philadelphia partners. Ira is supportive of UHC becoming the Philadelphia local data intermediary and they discussed ways of working more closely on related data and other projects.

References

Please see attached letters of support from three references.

Dana Careless, Director of Health Promotion
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Data Inventory for Potential Partners
(See separate excel sheet)