Supporting Community Health and Resilience

The Polis Center at IUPUI supports the growing disciplines of population health management, community health improvement planning, patient-centered decision-making, and analysis of the social determinants of health. Using a place-based approach, we combine and analyze clinical, social, and environmental data and create assessment and decision-making tools that help identify the associated needs of individuals, organizations, and communities.

Key Initiatives

» We conduct community health needs assessments (CHNA) and community health improvement planning activities for hospital systems across the state, such as the Community Health Network in Central Indiana and the Parkview Health System in Northeast Indiana.

» In partnership with the IU School of Informatics and Computing, we developed the community health priority rating tool to assist hospitals, public health agencies, neighborhood organizations, and planning groups engaged in community health to make transparent and evidence-based decisions about where to invest their available community health resources.

» We are collaborating with the IU School of Medicine Department of Emergency Medicine, the IU School of Science Department of Chemistry, and the Indiana Poison Control Center, on the Chemical Surveillance System for the Synthetic Drug Crisis. This initiative is developing a monitoring program to identify the drug compounds causing emergency department overdose visits and creating an associated online dashboard for clinicians, researchers, public safety professionals, and policymakers.

» We are partnering with the Central Indiana Senior Fund (CISF) to develop an authoritative, accessible, and sustainable State of Aging in Central Indiana Report. This report will provide the most current data to inform programs, funding, and policy to ensure Central Indiana seniors have equal opportunity for a healthy, dignified, and enjoyable life as they age.

» We assist in the description and assessment of communities for health initiatives, such as the Diabetes Impact Project-Indianapolis (DIP-IN) of the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health funded by Lilly Global Health, and the Monon Collaborative of the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI).

» As part of the IU Grand Challenge Responding to the Addictions Crisis, we work with Regenstrief Institute and its partners on the design and development of the Indiana Addictions Data Commons (IADC). The IADC aims to provide a more streamlined means for addictions researchers to obtain both clinical and non-clinical data.

» We developed the Bowen Health Workforce Information Portal for the IU School of Medicine’s Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research & Policy including a variety of data visualization tools. These tools assist stakeholders in identifying Indiana’s health workforce needs and gaps. The Bowen Portal is gaining national attention as a “best practice” in supporting health workforce planning.

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