

# Public Health Research



# Public Health Research

## CONTACT

**Michael Davern**  
Senior Vice President  
(312) 357-3770  
davern-michael@norc.org

**Angela DeBello**  
Vice President  
(312) 759-4069  
debello-angela@norc.org

**Caitlin Oppenheimer**  
Vice President  
(301) 634-9322  
oppenheimer-caitlin@norc.org

Public health officials are faced with many ongoing and emerging challenges: determining the impact of the Affordable Care Act, strengthening our public health infrastructure, reducing health disparities, emergency preparedness, monitoring chronic disease, and understanding the relationship between health and the environment. Public health decision makers need high quality data and analyses to help them address these issues.

NORC's Public Health Research department offers a range of research capabilities, including quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis. The Public Health Research team includes prominent health policy experts, nationally recognized public health researchers, and leaders in the field of survey design and implementation. The staff represents a broad multidisciplinary spectrum spanning public health, epidemiology, statistics, policy, psychology, economics, sociology, social work, and political science.

The Public Health Research team is committed to NORC's core mission of conducting research of the highest quality that serves the public interest, and builds long-term relationships among staff, partners, and sponsors through collaborative efforts to improve health and health care for all people.

### Areas of Expertise:

- Human development
- Maternal and child health
- Vaccines and immunization
- Influenza
- Health information technology
- Environmental health
- Public health systems and services research
- Health disparities
- Rural health
- Disease prevention surveillance
- Medicare and Medicaid
- Simulation and econometric modeling
- Health workforce
- Public health economics

### Major Capabilities:

- Telephone, mail, web, and in-person survey data collection
- Survey design
- Cognitive interviewing and focus groups
- Sample design and survey methods
- Program evaluation
- Performance measurement
- Biomeasure and environmental data collection
- Database design and implementation
- Quantitative and qualitative data analysis
- Technical assistance and program support
- Stakeholder interviews and site visits
- Data translation and dissemination



## Sample Projects

**Assessing the Affordable Care Act-Related Impacts and Opportunities for Public Health and Prevention Programs.** NORC is developing a series of four quick turnaround analytic papers addressing issues and initiatives related to the Affordable Care Act and health prevention programs: 1) Intended and unintended impacts of ACA provisions on HHS programs, policies, and services; 2) Reviewing and analyzing the methods and data that provide the basis for making the prevention service recommendations; 3) Assessing the barriers and challenges to making effective and sustainable linkages between the community prevention services and the clinical prevention service systems; and 4) Reviewing where prevention happens and describing the historical trends and potential setting changes due to ACA implementation and shifts in public health and health care.

**National Children's Study (NCS).** The NCS is a landmark, longitudinal cohort study sponsored by the National Institute of Health (NIH). The NCS will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health and development of 100,000 children in 105 locations from preconception to 21 years of age. During the current pilot phase, NORC serves as the Field Support Coordinating Center to NIH—assisting 40 study locations—and manages the Regional Operating Centers (ROCs) for the Central and Eastern regions of the US. Through these centers, we provide statistical, methodological, community outreach and data-collection services.

**Formative Research to Assess Injection Behaviors Among Young Persons Who Inject Drugs in Rural and Suburban Settings.** The Division of Viral Hepatitis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has hired NORC to survey young injecting drug users while simultaneously administering a rapid antibody test for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. NORC's project team developed a prospective injection drug use survey based on five primary hypotheses of determinants of increased risk for HCV acquisition. The project will use an innovative respondent-driven sampling recruitment methodology to reduce selection bias between heavy and episodic drug users.

**National Immunization Survey (NIS).** Administered on behalf of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by NORC since 2005, the NIS monitors childhood immunization coverage. This household survey screens more than 6 million sampled telephone lines yearly. The NIS Provider Survey requests permission to contact eligible children's medical providers, and sends those providers an immunization history questionnaire. Household and provider data are combined to produce timely estimates of children's vaccination coverage rate for national, state, and local areas. A companion survey, the NIS-Teen, monitors vaccination coverage among teenagers aged 13-17 years.

**Tribal Health Profession Opportunity Grants Program.** For the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), NORC is leading a comprehensive evaluation of the design, implementation and outcomes of the five Tribal Health Professions Opportunities Grants. Activities include reviewing documents and curricula, conducting site visits and interviews with grantee administrative staff and partners, interviewing local employers, conducting focus groups, and analyzing program operations data as part of this evaluation.

## Other Projects

Access to Rural Public Health Services

Assessment of the Sustainability and Impact of Community Coalitions Once Federal Funding has Expired

Department of Veterans' Affairs Office of Rural Health, Policy, and Planning Group

Disparities in Substance Abuse and Mental Health in the Appalachian Region

Evaluation of Advancing System Improvements to Support Targets for Healthy People 2010 (ASIST2010) Program

Evaluation of the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Beta Test

Frontier Community Health Integration Model Demonstration

HRSA Health IT Toolkit

Modeling the Impact of Urban Evacuation on Surrounding Jurisdictions

National Flu Survey Series

National Survey of Adoptive Parents (NSAP)

National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs

National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH)

Office of Rural Health Policy Rural Health Outreach Tracking and Evaluation Program

The Impact of the Economic Downturn on Rural Health Clinics

Trends in U.S. Public Awareness of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health

## SENIOR STAFF

**Michael Davern, Ph.D.**  
Senior Vice President

Population health, health insurance coverage, access to health care, data linkage, data dissemination

**Angela DeBello, M.A.**  
Vice President

Health surveys, hard-to-reach populations, health disparities, children's health

**Caitlin Carroll Oppenheimer, M.P.H.**  
Vice President

Program evaluation, qualitative research, disease prevention and health promotion

**Martin L. Barron**  
Senior Research Scientist

Survey Methodology, quantitative analysis, complex data manipulation, social media analysis

**Alycia I. Bayne**  
Senior Research Scientist

Program evaluation, public health systems, community outreach and engagement

**Karen Harris Brewer, M.P.H.**  
Senior Research Scientist

Chronic disease prevention, obesity, health promotion, qualitative analysis

**Larry Bye, M.A.**  
Senior Fellow

Design and evaluation of social marketing/change campaigns, policy and behavioral research, survey methods, program evaluation

**Cheryl Austein Casnoff, M.P.H.**  
Senior Fellow

Health information technology, public health insurance, children's health, public health policy

**Felicia Cerbone, M.A.**  
Senior Research Scientist

Project management, technical assistance, mental health

**Oscar Espinosa, M.A.**  
Senior Research Scientist

Program evaluation, health disparities, performance indicators

**Shara Godiwalla, M.P.H.**  
Senior Survey Director

Survey management, public health, children's health, health disparities, international health

**Elizabeth Hair, Ph.D.**  
Senior Research Scientist

Maternal and child health, questionnaire development, quantitative analyses, program evaluation

**Alana Knudson, Ph.D.**  
Principal Research Scientist

Rural health, public health infrastructure, health services research

**Felicia LeClere, Ph.D.**  
Senior Fellow

Public health, data dissemination, demography, health disparities

**Kate Ballard LeFauve, M.A.**  
Senior Survey Director

Survey design and management, provider surveys

**Michael Meit, M.A., M.P.H.**  
Program Area Director

Rural health, public health systems, emergency preparedness

**Margethe Montgomery, M.A.**  
Senior Survey Director

Survey design, management of rapid data collection projects, provider surveys

**Heather Morrison, M.A.**  
Senior Survey Director

Survey design and management, health disparities, children's health

**David B. Rein, Ph.D.**  
Principal Research Scientist

Infectious disease, cost-effectiveness and outcomes research, burden of disease, program evaluation, public health economics, applied simulation modeling, econometrics

**Helen Suh, Sc.D.**  
Senior Fellow

Environmental health, exposure assessment, environmental epidemiology, environmental measurements, health disparities, children's health, quantitative analyses, study design

**Bess Welch, Ph.D.**  
Senior Survey Director

Survey design and management, children's health

---

# NORC

at the UNIVERSITY of CHICAGO

### DOWNTOWN CHICAGO

55 East Monroe Street  
30th Floor  
Chicago IL 60603  
(312) 759-4000

### UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1155 East 60th Street  
3rd Floor  
Chicago IL 60637  
(773) 256-6000

### DC METRO

4350 East-West Highway  
8th Floor  
Bethesda MD 20814  
(301) 634-9300

### ATLANTA

3520 Piedmont Road, N.E.  
Suite 225  
Atlanta GA 30305  
(404) 240-8400

### BOSTON

225 Friend Street  
Suite 204  
Boston MA 02114  
(617) 316-3700

### SAN FRANCISCO

601 Montgomery Street  
Suite 2015  
San Francisco CA 94111  
(415) 315-2000

1 North State Street  
16th Floor  
Chicago IL 60602  
(312) 759-5200

1730 Pennsylvania Avenue  
2nd Floor  
Washington DC 20006