

# Public Health Research



## Public Health Research

### CONTACT

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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  
Special populations

- Veterans
- Health care workers

Health disparities  
Rural health  
Disease prevention surveillance  
Medicare and Medicaid

### 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

**Evaluation of Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health Across the U.S. (REACH U.S.).** NORC conducts two projects related to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's REACH U.S. program. The first, an annual survey in 28 REACH U.S. grantee communities, provides quantitative data to measure progress toward eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities in several health priority areas. In the second, NORC uses existing data and a literature review to assess the role of cultural tailoring and translation on grantees' activities related to policy, system, and environmental changes.

**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 is directly partnered with nine study locations to provide statistical, methodological, and data-collection services.

**Technical Support of the Development of Healthy People 2020.** NORC has been supporting the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) for five years on the development of Healthy People 2020. NORC provides logistical and content-related support for the Federal Advisory Committee and the Federal Interagency Workgroup; collaborates on the design of a data warehouse to collect and support analysis of public comments; and supports civic engagement processes and public education for the initiative.

**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.

**National Profile of Tribal Public Health Agencies.** For the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and in partnership with the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), NORC is conducting analyses of NIHB's national profile of tribal public health agencies and developing recommendations for future tribal profile efforts. The profile includes information regarding tribal public health budgets, staffing, leadership, program areas, and priorities.

## 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

Evaluation of the Tribal Health Professions Opportunity Grant Program

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 and Director

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

### Eloise Parker, M.A.

Associate Director

Survey design and management, children's health, international projects

### Karen Harris Brewer, M.P.H.

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Chronic disease prevention, obesity, health promotion, qualitative analysis

### Larry Bye, M.A.

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

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

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Project management, technical assistance, mental health

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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.

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

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Principal Research Scientist

Rural health, public health infrastructure, health services research

### Felicia LeClere, Ph.D.

Principal Research Scientist

Public health, data dissemination, demography, health disparities

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Senior Survey Director

Survey design and management, provider surveys

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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.

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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.

Program Area Director

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

### Bess Welch, Ph.D.

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