A Prevention Research Center funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Mission

To work in partnership with youth, people who work with youth, community residents, public policymakers and program administrators to help adolescents in Baltimore transition to healthy adult lifestyles
What we do

- Community participatory research to advance healthy adolescent development
- Program evaluation
- Training: school and community
- Communication of results for practical application in the community
- Promotion of policies that foster adolescent health
Organizational Structure

- Community Advisory Board (CAB) sets agenda
- Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) participates in CAB and advises researchers
- Faculty associates
- Staff
- Students
Current Projects with Student Opportunities

- Healthy Minds at Work
- Center for Urban Families Study
- Sexual Health Education, Faith Leaders and Young Black MSM
- HONESTY Project
- Cookshop Evaluation
- AstraZeneca Young Health Program and WAVE
- Dating Matters Implementation
- Project Connect
Healthy Minds at Work

- Partnership with the Youth Opportunity Program (YO!) of the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development and Historic East Baltimore Corporation
- Goal: to improve mental health status for out-of-school youth in a setting that does not typically address health needs (Screening, Peer Education, Counseling)
- Investigators:
  - Darius Tandon (PI)
  - Meg Gifford Tucker (Project Manager)
  - Amanda Latimore (Post Doctoral Fellow)
  - Peer Educators
Student Opportunities: HMAW

• Data now available for capstone projects and dissertation papers.
  – Individual characteristics, health and mental health measures collected at baseline, 6-months, and 12-months;
  – intervention dosage: receipt of mental health services;
  – employment and education measures

• Students interested in working with these data will work closely with the study principal investigator Darius Tandon standon@jhmi.edu and postdoctoral fellow Amanda Latimore alatimor@jhsph.edu
Center for Urban Families: The Impact Story Enhanced

• Goal: to enhance the Center for Urban Families’ capacity to document how the job readiness program, STRIVE Baltimore, impacts clients and their partners and kin.

• Methods: Life history interviews with 20 STRIVE graduates (18-25 years old) and persons they nominate as a significant other (N = 20).
Student Opportunities: Center for Urban Families Project

• Students will be trained in qualitative data design, collection and analysis.
• Investigators: Terri Williams and Nan Astone

• Contact: Terri Williams at tewillia@jhsph.edu.
Sexual Health Education and Experiences among Faith Leaders and Young Black MSM

• Goal: to understand the ways sexual health education and experiences influence how people relay and receive HIV prevention messages from churches.

• Methods: In-depth interviews with 20 young (18-25 years old) Black men who have sex with men and 10 faith leaders in Baltimore.
Student Opportunities: Faith Leader and MSM study

• Students will be trained in qualitative data design, collection and analysis.
• Contact: Terri Williams at tewillia@jhsph.edu
Areas of Current Research: HONESTY Project

• HOrtmonal & NEurological Survey of Texting Youth
• Goal: to examine adolescent (ages 18-24) decision-making from both a biological (brain activity, hormones) and social (attitudes, knowledge) perspective; 1-year longitudinal study

• Investigators:
  – Jacinda K. Dariotis (PI)
  – Kathleen Cardona & Meg Gifford Tucker (Project Coordinators)
  – Caroline Anderson (Research Assistant)
Student Opportunities: HONESTY

• Data now available for doctoral competencies, dissertation papers, and other publishable papers.
  – Visit 1 data
    • Individual characteristics
    • Sexual and substance use behaviors
    • Health and mental health measures
    • Neuropsychological assessments
  – Weekly text message data on behaviors

• Students interested in working with these data will work closely with the study Principal Investigator Jacinda Dariotis and Co-Investigator Kathleen Cardona
Areas of Current Research: CookShop Project

- Cookshop is a nutrition education program implemented by the Foodbank of New York City that targets low-income families to increase their knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors regarding healthy food consumption.

- Goal: to conduct a process evaluation and a longitudinal impact evaluation of two Cookshop projects: Cookshop Classroom and Cookshop Families, which target early elementary school students and their parents in the NYC public schools.

- Investigators:
  - Kristin Mmari, Beth Marshall, Susan Gross, David Paige, and Marycatharine Augustyn
Student Opportunities: CookShop

• Data collection will start this fall, and will include qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Data from a pilot conducted this summer is available for analysis.
  – Qualitative data includes in-depth interviews, focus groups, and cafeteria observations recorded through digital photography.
  – The quantitative data includes multiple surveys collected through IPADS (iforms).

• Contact: Beth Marshall at bmarshal@jhsph.edu
Areas of Current Research: Young Health Programme

• Three Phase Study of Urban Adolescents and Young Adults
  – Phase I: Assembly and Analysis of Extant Data
  – Phase II: Qualitative Data Collection of Young People 15-19 in six cities (WAVE)
  – Phase III: (WAVE) Quantitative Survey of Young People 15-19 in six cities
• Goal: to connect highly vulnerable to needed services
• Investigators:
  – Freya Sonenstein and Bob Blum (PI)
  – Nan Astone (Investigator)
  – Michelle Decker (Investigator)
  – Kristin Mmari (Investigator)
Student Opportunities:

- Data now available for capstone projects and dissertation papers on Phase I
- Internship Opportunities for literature reviews and data analysis
  - Literature review on unstably housed youth
  - Working on Data Assembly for Phase I
WAVE

- Well-being of Adolescents in Vulnerable Environments
- Goal: to examine how disadvantaged adolescents in different urban environments define the meaning of health and ill health, and to describe where adolescents go for health information and services, as well as the barriers they face in seeking or accessing help.
- Six sites: Baltimore, Rio, Johannesburg, Shanghai, Dehli, and Ibadan
- Investigators:
  - Bob Blum, Freya Sonenstein, Nan Astone, Kristin Mmari, and Michele Decker
Student Opportunities: WAVE

• Previously collected qualitative data with young people aged 15-19 years and the adults who work with them from all sites for analysis (Most Immediate need).
  – Contact: Kristin Mmari (kmmari@jhsph.edu) if interested.

• This fall, a survey (which uses respondent driven sampling) will launch in all sites. Opportunities for the fall include questionnaire programming, data collection, and, in the spring, data analysis.
  – Contact: Beth Marshall (bmarshal@jhsph.edu) if interested.
Areas of Current Practice: Dating Matters

• As part of a three year evaluation study to test the effectiveness of the Dating Matters curriculum in an urban setting, the Center will be implementing the curriculum with students in 12 Baltimore City middle schools.
Student Opportunities: Dating Matters

• Students can be trained to implement the curriculum in Baltimore City Middle Schools.
  – Contact: Katrina Brooks at klbrooks@jhsph.edu.
Project Connect

• 3 year cooperative agreement with the CDC to increase the proportion of sexually active young men (including MSM) who receive quality sexual and reproductive health care in Baltimore City

• Focus is on young African-American and Latino men

• PI: Arik Marcell
Project Connect Student Opportunities

• Project Coordinator – 20 hours per week
  – doctoral student w/ knowledge of and commitment to the Baltimore community and public health;
  – experience working with community organizations and policy makers;
  – interest and experience working with young men’s health, specifically African-American men, Latino men, and men who have sex with men

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How to reach us

• [http://www.jhsph.edu/adolescenthealth/index.html](http://www.jhsph.edu/adolescenthealth/index.html)

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