Physical Activity Resources

We maintain an extensive website (http://prevention.sph.sc.edu/index.htm) to provide resources and information to researchers, public health practitioners, and others who are interested in promoting physical activity in their communities.

The USC Prevention Research Center Notes is a quarterly e-mail newsletter with current information about physical activity and public health. To subscribe to the newsletter, send an email to listserv@listserv.sc.edu. In the body of the email type: SUBSCRIBE PRCNEWS, along with your first and last name or anonymous, if you wish to have your subscription hidden.

The Physical Activity and Public Health On Line Network is a listserv that creates an international network of physical activity and public health practitioners, researchers, and interested others. To subscribe to this listserv, send an email to listserv@listserv.sc.edu. In the body of the email type: SUBSCRIBE PHYS-ACT, along with your first and last name or anonymous, if you wish to have your subscription hidden.

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Our Vision
Physically Active People in Active Community Environments

Our Mission
The University of South Carolina Prevention Research Center is committed to conducting research that benefits the public’s health and to translating research into practice. We promote physical activity through community intervention, training, dissemination, and applied research.

Our center’s focus on physical activity is consistent with national health goals, strategies, and objectives. Physical activity is included as one of CDC’s “winnable battles.” Healthy People 2020 contains 15 physical activity objectives. Promoting increased physical activity is included as part of the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion’s (NCCDPHP) environmental approach to prevent chronic disease and promote health.

Our Research Goals
The USC PRC has established a research agenda to achieve its vision. This agenda consists of four goals:

1. to understand how individual, interpersonal, organizational, environmental, and policy factors relate to physical activity within community settings;
2. to evaluate the influences of changes in community environmental features and policies on physical activity behaviors;
3. to promote physical activity across the lifespan; and
4. to affect social, environmental, and political influences on reducing racial and ethnic disparities in physical activity.

Our Core Research
The USC PRC’s applied public health research project is titled “Faith, Activity, and Nutrition – Dissemination in Underserved Communities.” This faith-based program targets environmental, systems, and policy change within churches to create a church environment supportive of physical activity and healthy eating. In a previous grant funded by the National Institutes of Health, Faith, Activity, and Nutrition (FAN) increased leisure-time physical activity and fruit and vegetable intake among SC church members. FAN is listed in the National Cancer Institute’s Research Tested Intervention Programs.

During the 2014-2019 funding cycle, the USC PRC will study the dissemination and implementation of FAN, using a train-the-trainer model. In Phase 1 of the project, the USC PRC will work in partnership with Clemson University, Fairfield Behavioral Health Services, and Fairfield Community Coordinating Council to examine program adoption, reach and factors influencing implementation in 60 churches in Fairfield County, SC. In Phase 2, we will work with a large denomination in SC to study the dissemination and implementation of FAN state-wide.

USC PRC Participation in PRC Thematic Networks
The USC PRC is funded to participate in two PRC thematic networks for the 2014-2019 cycle.

Healthy Brain Research Network (HBRN) - Collaborating Center (PI: Daniela Friedman) The aims of the SC-HBRN are to establish a research agenda and to advance research in the area of cognitive health and healthy aging and to support fellowship training of doctoral candidates.

Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN) - Collaborating Center (PI: Daniela Friedman) The SC-CPCRN-II will emphasize interventions that address cancer-related health disparities, engage community partners and stakeholders in center activities, and increase participation in cancer prevention and control behaviors among high-risk and disparate populations.

Continuously funded by the CDC since 1993, the USC PRC is one of 26 university-based centers conducting applied research and practice in chronic disease prevention and control across the nation.