

PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, PRACTICE, AND POLICY



YEAR IN REVIEW



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

Preventing Chronic Disease (PCD) had its most successful year to date in 2021. Despite the challenges of working during the pandemic, PCD published 4 important collections, published the most widely read article in its history, and continued to appoint distinguished researchers, evaluators, community interventionists, health economists, statisticians, and other public health specialists to the journal's Editorial Board, Associate Editor team, and Statistics Review Committee. PCD content continues to resonate with its readership, as evidenced by an increase in the journal's impact factor. In 2021, PCD received a journal impact factor of 2.803, a big jump from the previous year's 2.144, in the Web of Science Journal Citation Reports. PCD's 5-year impact factor also saw an impressive increase, up to 3.215 from last year's 2.822. In addition, PCD is now ranked 4th out of 27 open-access US public health journals by SJR (Scimago).

PCD published high-quality peer-reviewed papers on a variety of critical topics in public health: chronic disease prevention and control efforts among multi-comorbidities, health systems research, COVID-19 and chronic diseases, use of GIS for public health planning, advancing health equity science research, and improving health and wellness across the life stages. PCD's acceptance rate dropped slightly from the previous year to 21.5%, a reflection of PCD's continuing emphasis on manuscripts of the highest quality and scientific rigor. PCD's focus overall was on manuscripts that provided insights on the development, implementation, and evaluation of population-based interventions to prevent chronic diseases and control disease effects on quality of life, morbidity, and mortality.

PCD's 4 published collections addressed long-standing and emerging public health challenges. In March, PCD published its collection, "Oral Health Behaviors and Availability of Dental Services Among Children and Adults," which features 8 articles that discuss contemporary dental public health challenges and opportunities. These include inequities in access to dental care, disparities in the prevalence of oral disease, risk behaviors related to oral disease, the relationship between oral health and chronic diseases, and the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on oral health.

In April, PCD published the collection, "Global Perspectives on Improving Chronic Disease Prevention and Management in Diverse Settings." This collection features 15 peer-reviewed articles published over 4 years, from March 2017 to December 2020. This global collection includes articles from North America (United States), South America (Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala), Europe (Spain, Denmark, UK global authors), Asia (Taiwan, Iran, South Korea), Africa (South Africa, Nigeria, Senegal), and Australia. The articles are grouped into 2 themes: 1) chronic disease outcomes such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, as well as the impact of COVID-19; and 2) behaviors and strategies (such as healthy food, smoking cessation, breastfeeding, and physical activity) that either prevent chronic diseases or aid in chronic disease management.

In July, the journal published the collection, "PCD 2021 Student Research Collection: Building Public Health Research Capacity in Real-World Settings." This collection of student papers marked the 10-year anniversary of our efforts to build scientific publishing skills and abilities among students. The primary aims of PCD's student manuscripts have evolved over the years.

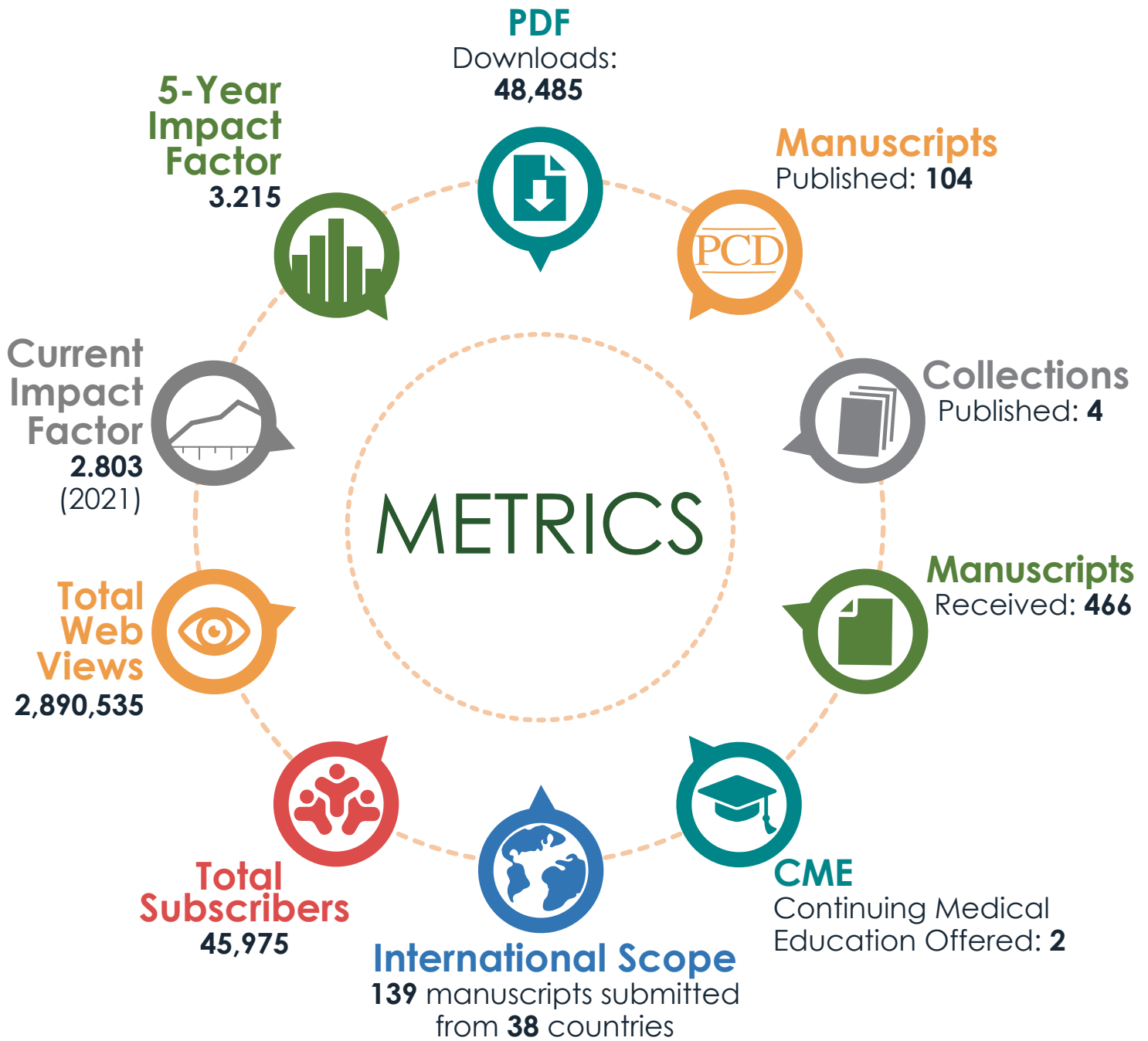
Specifically, we aim to 1) provide an opportunity to become familiar with a journal's manuscript submission requirements and peer review process; 2) foster connections among student knowledge and training, the conduct of quality research, and a journal's publication expectations; 3) develop research and scientific writing skills to become producers of knowledge, rather than just consumers of knowledge; 4) provide an opportunity to become a first author on a peer-reviewed article; and 5) promote supportive, respectful, and mutually beneficial mentee relationships that strengthen students' ability to generate and submit scholarly manuscripts throughout their professional careers. The PCD 2021 Student Research Collection is dedicated to Samuel Posner, PhD, the person who envisioned and led the journal's first student competition in 2011.

And, finally, in August of this year, PCD published a collection on advancing health equity and eliminating health disparities, which have been and continue to be high-priority issues in public health. "Advancing Health Equity, Eliminating Health Disparities, and Improving Population Health" features 17 articles; 10 were submitted in response to PCD's call for papers for this collection and 7 were previously published in the journal. All articles underwent the journal's rigorous peer-review process. This collection also features a position statement on the journal's commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in its scientific leadership, peer review process, research focus, training, and continuing education.

In closing, PCD's tremendous success in 2021 would not have been possible without the contributions of its rich pool of qualified peer reviewers. PCD peer reviewers provide their expertise to the journal on a voluntary basis. More than 1,300 peer reviewers offered their time and service to the journal in 2021, contributing their expertise to make the most informed decisions on papers submitted to the journal. We can't thank our peer reviewers enough for their contribution to the success of the journal. PCD would also like to thank the journal's Editorial Board, Associate Editors, Statistical Review Committee members, PCD staff, subscribers, and senior leadership in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion for their unwavering support of the journal. As a result of the journal's tremendous support, PCD is well positioned to continue its effort to provide the world with peer-reviewed research, evaluation, and practice content.

Leonard Jack, Jr, PhD, MSc





SCOPE AND FOCUS

PCD's versatile online publication platform and relevant, rigorous research continue to set it apart from other journals in the public health arena. With each weekly release of articles, PCD continues its mission to promote dialogue among researchers, practitioners, and policy makers worldwide on the integration and application of research findings and practical experience to improve population health. PCD has released 7 Calls for Papers in 2021. The following major topic areas are of great interest to the journal:

1. Call for Papers: COVID-19 & Chronic Diseases: Burden, Access to Care, Community Engagement, and Partnerships

Chronic diseases have exacted a heavy burden on the adult population and account for leading causes of death globally. Many chronic diseases (eg, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic kidney disease) and risk factors (such as obesity and smoking) increase the severity of COVID-19 outcomes. Consequently, rates of hospitalization and death due to COVID-19 increase as the number of conditions increase. COVID-19 can further exacerbate the health conditions of individuals living with a chronic disease given that COVID-19 is a complex multisystem disorder that can affect multiple organs and tissues. Further, patients with chronic conditions report not engaging in recommended preventive health care due to the fear of COVID-19 infection. PCD seeks to expand these topics, along with these additional examples:

- COVID-19 incidence and fatality among adults with chronic conditions by urban-rural classification
- Racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 vaccination rates and access among adults with chronic disease
- Health-related behavioral risk factors related to chronic conditions
- Racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 incidence and receiving medical treatment among adults with chronic conditions
- The influence/impact of social determinants of health on chronic disease and COVID-19 pandemic among vulnerable populations
- Structural racism, chronic disease management, and COVID-19

Learn more about this [Call for Papers](#).

2. 2022 PCD Publishing Opportunity for Students

PCD is looking for students at the high school, undergraduate and graduate levels, and recent postgraduates to submit papers relevant to the prevention, screening, surveillance, and population-based intervention of chronic diseases, including but not limited to arthritis, asthma, cancer, depression, diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, COVID-19 and chronic conditions. Accepted papers will become part of PCD's special **Student Research Collection**.

Learn more about this [Call for Papers](#).

3. Health Equity in Action: Research, Policy, and Practice

PCD welcomes submissions for its upcoming collection, "Health Equity in Action: Research, Practice, and Policy." Advancing health equity and eliminating health disparities have been and continue to be critical areas of great interest to PCD. Healthy People 2020 defines health equity as the attainment of the highest level of health for people: "Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and health care disparities."

PCD is interested in learning where, when, and how to effectively intervene to improve health equity. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- Advancing health equity and health disparities: similarities, differences, and rationale for next steps
- Integrating health equity in all policies
- Conducting early studies of interventions to improve health equity
- Identifying potential health interventions to improve health equity in diverse populations and settings
- Integrating health equity in program design, implementation, and evaluation
- Engaging community stakeholders to advance health equity
- Developing communication approaches and strategies to convey meaning and importance of health equity science, practice, and policy

Learn more about this [Call for Papers](#).

4. Global Responses to Prevent, Manage, and Control Cardiovascular Disease

Heart disease and strokes continue to be leading causes of death and major disability worldwide despite the recent impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past several years, efforts have increased to implement timely intervention programs in multiple settings, across all age groups, in the general population and among high-risk groups to achieve population-level improvements in cardiovascular health. PCD is interested in publishing papers from around the world that offer insight into successes and challenges of public health strategies to improve cardiovascular health through prevention, detection, and treatment. Examples of topics of interest include but are not limited to the following:

- Factors contributing to the decline or increase in heart disease risk
- Drivers of racial and ethnic minority population disparities in cardiovascular health
- Cardiovascular disease risk reduction programs in urban, rural, clinical, and/or community settings
- Health equity approaches to reducing coronary heart disease and strokes among diverse populations
- Health systems approaches to helping patients maintain their routine care, treatment, and access to medical care
- Geographic variations in the costs of heart disease

Learn more about this [Call for Papers](#).

5. Sleep Deprivation, Sleep Disorders, and Chronic Disease

Sleep is an essential daily behavior that supports physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Nearly every system of the body depends on satisfactory sleep quality and quantity for routine healing, repair, and restoration. Research shows that insufficient sleep is linked to an increased risk for the development of type 2 diabetes, and sleep duration and sleep quality have emerged as predictors of hemoglobin A1c level, a key marker of blood sugar control. Hypertension, stroke, coronary heart disease, and irregular heartbeat are more common among those with disordered sleep than those without sleep abnormalities.

PCD is interested in publishing papers from around the world that bring increased attention to the relationship between sleep and chronic disease and offer insight into successes and challenges of public health strategies to improve the quality of sleep. Examples of topics include but are not limited to the following:

- Prevalence of healthy and unhealthy sleep duration among children, adolescents, adults, and older adults
- Latest research on causes, symptoms, and treatment of sleep deprivation and sleep disorders
- Differences in the amount, frequency, time, efficiency, and quality of sleep among racial and ethnic groups
- Research on the link between insufficient sleep and an increased risk for the development of type 2 diabetes
- Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on sleep quality among the general population
- Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on sleep quality among racial and ethnic groups

Learn more about this [Call for Papers](#).

6. Public Health and Medicine: Combating Racism Through Research, Training, Practice, and Public Health Policies

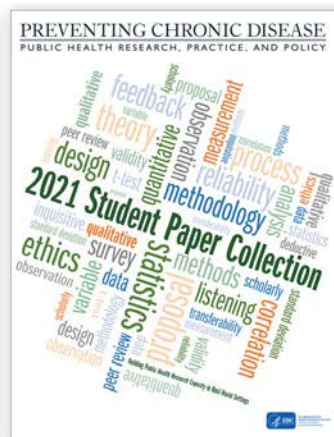
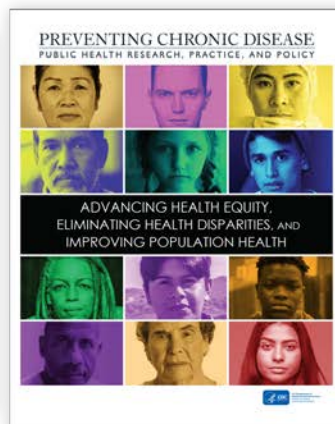
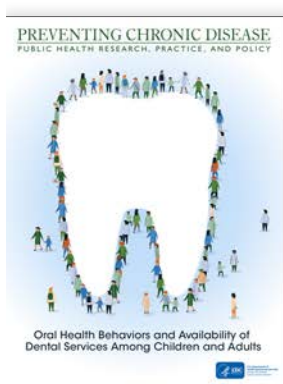
In April 2021, CDC declared racism as a public health threat, identifying it as one of the fundamental drivers of health inequities. A plethora of US cities and counties have similarly declared racism as a public health issue. The American Medical Association recognizes that racism, in its systemic, cultural, interpersonal, and other forms, is a serious threat to public health, the advancement of health equity, and a barrier to appropriate medical care.

Over the past decades, there has been a need to expand research and implement multicomponent ways to ameliorate the persistence of racial inequities beyond traditionally explored socioeconomic factors. Race is primarily a social construct, based on nationality, ethnicity, or other markers of social difference. Racism differs from race in that it operates as an organized system in which one racial group uses its power to devalue, disempower, and deprive other groups they deem inferior of valued societal resources and opportunities. Racism, in various forms, occurs in different settings (eg, health care systems, labor, criminal justice, education, housing, communities). Racism is detrimental to health, a root cause of health inequalities, and a major source of stress across the lifespan. PCD is interested in publishing peer-reviewed papers offering insights into the roles of public health, medicine, and policy to combat all forms of racism through research, training, practice, and public health policies. Examples of topics include but are not limited to the following:

- Racism and disease risk among diverse populations and patients
- Physical and mental effects of racism on health
- The link between sustainable development goals and structural systemic forces related to racism
- Multiple pathways of racial residential segregation and their effect on racial health disparities
- Methodologic approaches to measuring racism across the lifespan
- Data sources (existing and proposed) to explore all forms of racism
- Analytic measurement challenges to understanding and mediating effects that contribute to observed patterns of racism over time at multiple levels of analysis
- Protective factors against racism across the lifespan

Learn more about this [Call for Papers](#).

To ensure this content reaches the largest possible audience, PCD continues to be an open access journal with articles available free online. Full-text content of PCD is digitally archived each month and available via PubMed Central and CrossRef. Our articles are also available through CDC's mobile app for on-the-go access, and the journal continues to use social media as a platform for reaching public health practitioners. These vital communication efforts further PCD's influence in disseminating proven and promising public health findings, innovations, and practices with editorial content respected for its integrity and relevance to chronic disease prevention.



TOP 10 MOST POPULAR ARTICLES OF 2020

PCD is excited to announce its most popular articles of 2021 as rated by Altmetric. Thousands of conversations about scholarly content happen online every day. Altmetric tracks a range of sources to capture, collate, and score this activity.

01. **Underlying Medical Conditions and Severe Illness Among 540,667 Adults Hospitalized With COVID-19, March 2020–March 2021**
02. **Needs and Preferences Among Food Pantry Clients**
03. **Retail Marketing of Menthol Cigarettes in Los Angeles, California: A Challenge to Health Equity**
04. **Disparities in Internet Access and COVID-19 Vaccination in New York City**
05. **COVID-19 Disparities Among Marshallese Pacific Islanders**
06. **Health-Related Behaviors and Odds of COVID-19 Hospitalization in a Military Population**
07. **COVID-19 and Chronic Disease: The Impact Now and in the Future**
08. **Effect of Inadequate Sleep on Frequent Mental Distress**
09. **Cancer Incidence Projections in the United States Between 2015 and 2050**
10. **New SNAP Eligibility in California Associated With Improved Food Security and Health**



About the Journal

PCD is a peer-reviewed public health journal sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and authored by experts worldwide. PCD was established in 2004 by the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion with a mission to promote dialogue among researchers, practitioners, and policy makers worldwide on the integration and application of research findings and practical experience to improve population health.

PCD's vision is to serve as an influential journal in the dissemination of proven and promising public health findings, innovations, and practices with editorial content respected for its integrity and relevance to chronic disease prevention.

PCD Staff

Archa Amin

Student Intern
Health Communications

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Production Coordinator
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Boone, North Carolina

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Vinay Cheruvu, PhD

Associate Professor of Biostatistics
Division of Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, and Epidemiology
College of Public Health, Kent State University
Kent, Ohio

Pyone Cho, MD, MPH

Epidemiologist
Division of Diabetes Translation
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

Sarah Conderino, MPH

Data Scientist
Department of Population Health
NYU Grossman School of Medicine
New York, New York

Patricia Da Rosa, DDS, MPH, MSc

Research Associate/Public Health & Health Outcomes Data Analyst
Population Health Evaluation Center
Office of Nursing Research
South Dakota State University
Brookings, South Dakota

Julia Dilley, PhD, MES

Senior Research Scientist/Epidemiologist
Multnomah County Health Department and Oregon Public Health Division
Portland, Oregon

Z. Tuba Suzer Gurtekin, PhD, MS, MBA

Assistant Research Scientist
University of Michigan Institute for Social Research
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Jeanette Gustat, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor
Department of Epidemiology, Tulane Prevention Research Center
School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
Tulane University
New Orleans, Louisiana

Daikwon Han, PhD

Associate Professor
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas

Nikki A. Hawkins, PhD

Lead Health Scientist
Office on Smoking and Health
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

Linda D. Highfield, PhD, MS

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Practice & Epidemiology
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Furman University
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Program Manager
Division of Epidemiology
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Robert Krikorian, PhD

Professor, Department of Psychiatry &
Behavioral Neuroscience
Director, Cognitive Aging Program
University of Cincinnati Academic Health
Center
Cincinnati, Ohio

Bian Liu, PhD, MS

Assistant Professor
Department of Population Health Science
and Policy
Institute for Translational Epidemiology
Department of Environmental Medicine and
Public Health
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, New York

Zhen-qiang Ma, MD, MPH, MS

Division director
Division of Community Epidemiology
Bureau of Epidemiology
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Adjunct assistant professor
Graduate School of Public Health
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sarah L. Martin, PhD, MS

Adjunct Faculty University of Maine
Department of Community Health
Education
Farmington, Maine

Kevin Matthews, PhD, MS

Health Geographer
National Center for Chronic Disease
Prevention and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

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Murphy Family Foundation Chair in Early
Life Interventions
Scientist, MAP Centre for Urban Health
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National Center for Chronic Disease
Prevention and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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Resources Management
National Center for Chronic Disease
Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of
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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

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Chief Executive Officer
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Baton Rouge, Louisiana



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Health Statistician
Division of Viral Hepatitis
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Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

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Associate Professor of Biostatistics
Division of Biostatistics, Environmental
Health Sciences, and Epidemiology
College of Public Health
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio

B. Rey de Castro, ScD

Mathematical Statistician
Quantitative Sciences & Data
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Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
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Prevention
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Division of Cardiology
School of Medicine
Emory University
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Senior/Lead Economist
Office of the Director
Division of Reproductive Health
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention
and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

Zhen-qiang Ma, MD, MPH, MS

Division Director
Division of Community Epidemiology
Bureau of Epidemiology
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Adjunct Assistant Professor
Graduate School of Public Health
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Shelley H. Liu, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Population Health Sciences
and Policy
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, New York

Lazarous Mbulo, PhD

Health Scientist
Office on Smoking and Health
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention
and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

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Atlanta, Georgia

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

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Rutgers University
Piscataway, New Jersey

LaTonia Richardson, PhD, MS

Statistician
Analytics Team
Enteric Diseases Epidemiology Branch
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and
Environmental Diseases
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic
Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

Daniel Sarpong, PhD

Director, Center for Minority Health Disparities
Research and Education
Endowed Chair of Health Disparities
Professor of Biostatistics
College of Pharmacy
Xavier University
New Orleans, Louisiana

Sanjay Shete, PhD

Betty B. Marcus Chair in Cancer Prevention
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer
Center
Department of Biostatistics
Houston, Texas

Kate M. Shaw, PhD

Health Scientist
Office of the Associate Director for Science
National Center for Injury Prevention and
Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

Ruben A. Smith, PhD, MS

Senior Statistician
Women's Health and Fertility Branch
Division of Reproductive Health
National Center for Chronic Disease
Prevention and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

Tyler C. Smith, PhD

Chair and Professor
Department of Community Health
School of Health and Human Services
National University
San Diego, California

Carmen D. Tekwe, PhD

Associate Professor of Biostatistics
Department of Epidemiology and
Biostatistics
School of Public Health
Indiana University – Bloomington
Bloomington, Indiana

Machell Town, PhD

Branch Chief
Population Health Surveillance Branch
Division of Population Health
National Center for Chronic Disease
Prevention and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

Ming Wang, PhD

Associate Professor
Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics
Department of Public Health Sciences
College of Medicine
Pennsylvania State University
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Ying Zhang, MD, MS, PHD

Associate Professor of Biostatistics
Director, Center for American Indian
Health Research
Department of of Biostatistics and
Epidemiology
Hudson College of Public Health
The University of Oklahoma Health
Sciences Center
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



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Leonard Jack, Jr, PhD, MSc
Editor in Chief
Preventing Chronic Disease
(404) 645-3355
pcdeditor@cdc.gov

4770 Buford Highway, NE
Mailstop F-80
Atlanta, GA, 30341-3717
www.cdc.gov/pcd