Center for Community Health Partnership & Research

Collaboration is essential for developing community-driven research and effective solutions that advance community health and health equity. To amplify community voice, we bring community partners and academic institutions together.

How We Work

We facilitate community participation in all stages of research, solicit community input on research, and implement initiatives that reduce health inequities and advance health.

We provide resources and tools for community-engaged research and practice.

We provide education and training to help academics and communities connect, build and sustain partnerships.

What We Do

**ISSUE**

Social, community and environmental factors are significant root causes of chronic illness and premature death.

Research and health programs are often developed in a vacuum without community voice.

**OUR ROLE**

Our center works with community partners to understand these root causes and develop informed solutions.

Our Community Advisory Board is comprised of diverse members who provide researchers with a community perspective throughout the research process.
At Pitch Partners, community members, organizations and faculty pitch health-related project ideas to identify potential partners and receive critical feedback, with several promising projects receiving funding. Projects include ovarian cancer awareness and education in rural communities, expanded access to mental health and diabetes care among African-American populations, and art to promote health and wellness among seniors.

Pitch Partners moves us beyond the traditional model of researcher-community interaction.

– Vetta Sanders Thompson, center director

Our Gun Violence Initiative tackles one of our greatest public health challenges: death and injury as a result of gun violence. Working with community partners, we helped establish the St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission (VPC) in 2015. This partnership supports local entities united in their efforts to combat gun violence. Since its inception, VPC has grown to more than 100 community partners from education, health care, law enforcement, government and grassroots sectors.

Our Collaborative for Community-Centered Conversations, known as Collaborative Café, is a discussion network for researchers and community members interested in engaged health research and practice. Hosted several times throughout the year, Collaborative Café provides an opportunity for researchers and community partners to network, share and receive feedback on research projects, and develop new community-academic partnerships.