

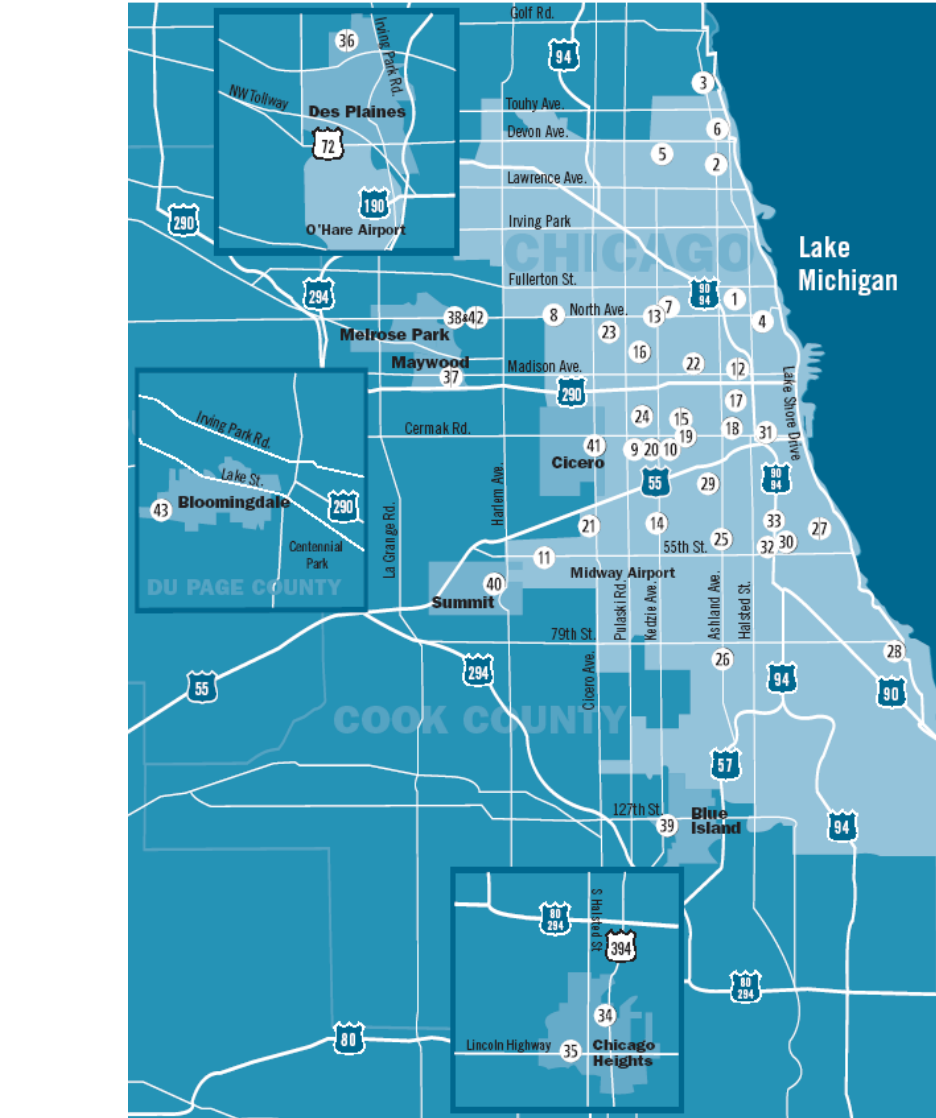
# The Starting Point for Research: Building a Research Infrastructure at Access Community Health Network



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# Access Community Health Network

215,000 patients  
60,000 uninsured  
50 sites  
All FQHCs  
Primary Care  
Specialty Care  
Clinicians ~ 275  
Support Staff ~ 440



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# UNDERSTANDING RESEARCH

Experiments are not Standard of Care

Collect data (to inform evidence based practice)

Research participants are often called subjects

Ethical oversight by an  
Institutional Review Board

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# How can Research add Value?

MONEY \$\$\$\$\$

PRESTIGE - through publications that  
contribute to science and public policy

Improve the quality of systems and services

Improve the health of individuals and communities

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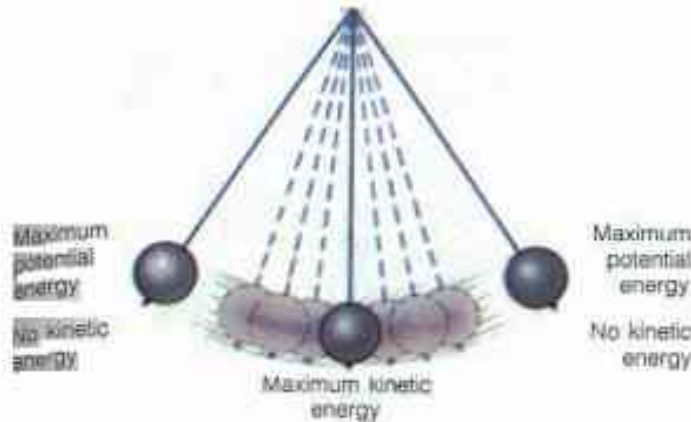
# Making Research Valuable

- **Examine best-practices** in primary health care.
- **Examine access to health care and related social services.**
- **Investigate new methods** of outreach and health education.
- **Study the effectiveness of innovative programs** linking health care, drug treatment, mental health care, and other social services.
- **Examine costs and cost-effectiveness** of community based health care and intervention services.
- **Address health disparities** by including minority and low SES populations in research protocols.

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# ACCESS Research Department Goals

Bench Science  
Quantitative Study  
Controlled conditions



Field Science  
Qualitative Study  
Variable Conditions

Obtain Funding to Assess and Improve

- Systems and Operations
- Quality of Care
- Patient Outcomes
- Create new knowledge about CHC practice(s)

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# Implementing a successful Research Program

- Aligns with your Mission, Vision and Values
- Reflects real partnerships with external researchers
- Health center staff understands research and the goals of specific projects
- Projects build trust among clinicians, patients and communities
- Projects improve quality and scope of healthcare services and patient health outcomes

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# Research Mission Statement

**Research will focus on improving processes, systems, quality of care and patient outcomes, and provide opportunities for professional development through involvement, training, and education.**



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# Research Conduct: *External Relations*

- Identify researchers working on questions important to you and develop a relationship; teach them about your organization
- Get involved in writing proposals, formulating goals and asking questions of importance to you
- Review the IRB application prior to its submission
- Provide input on projects at local, regional and national levels

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# Research Conduct: *Internal Relations*

- Build relationships with medical operations, providers and health center staff
- Collaborate with health center leadership to involve staff in the implementation of all research protocols
- Effectively report on results of research
- Research Administration – contracting, finance, compliance
- Identify staff and infrastructure needed to support different types of research protocols

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# Selected NIH Funded Collaborations

- Chicago Cancer Navigation Project
- Refining and Standardizing Health Literacy Assessment
- Subjective/Objective Health Measures by Race/Ethnicity
- Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort study RIC and Hispanic CRIC
- Risk Assessment of the Testing Processes at Access Community Health Network

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# AHRQ Funded ACCESS Projects

- Risk Assessment of the Testing Processes at Access Community Health Network (P20 HS17131)
- A Toolkit for Primary Care Practices to Improve the Safety of Testing (R18HS017911)

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# Other ACCESS Research Collaborations

- Developing an Evaluation Framework for the ACCESS Performance Based Compensation Plan
- Quality and Patient-Centeredness in a Pay for Performance Environment
- Low Literacy Strategy to Improve Self-Management of Hypertension and Elevated Cholesterol
- Controlling Asthma in Chicago
- Pregnancy Intention in African American and Latina Women

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# ACCESS Program Evaluations

- Stand Against Cancer Evaluation Report
- Healthy Births for Healthy Communities  
Interconceptual Project
- Westside Connect
- Women Returning Home

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# ACCESS Research Department

Comments, questions, etc....

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