

# Health Equity Program 2014

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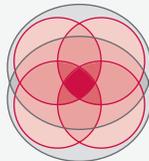
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## Development of the Kirwan Institute's Health Equity Program

The Kirwan Institute is entering its second decade of working to create a just and inclusive society where all people and communities have the opportunity to succeed. Our work has produced critical lessons in bridging research, advocacy and policy change, including connecting with local leadership, building capacity, and creating the conditions for sustainable implementation. In 2012, Executive Director Sharon Davies launched the health equity program. Building upon our experience in systems theory, mapping and place-based interventions, we partner with government agencies, organizations and individuals both locally and nationally to support equitable health policy and practice.

Since 2012, the Institute has completed the following projects:

- **Toledo, OH Environmental Justice Analysis:** The Institute collaborated with legal aid attorneys and community organizers in Toledo, Ohio to track and identify the racial impact of lead paint exposure on primarily African American youth.
- **Birmingham, AL Environmental Justice Analysis:** Working with community advocates in Birmingham, Alabama, the Institute was able to provide technical support to local organizers, halting the expansion of an industrial railway into an African American community.
- **The PICO *Bringing Health Reform Home* Campaign in New Orleans and Kansas City:** Kirwan partnered with PICO National Network and Communities Creating Opportunity (CCO) in Kansas City, and with MICAHA in New Orleans, to build a common understanding of sustainable and equitable community health. Our studies mapped high concentrations of emergency room usage (“hot spots”), in order to better understand the primary care needs of the community, the costs of using the emergency room system, and how to reinvest in these “hot spot” communities to build healthier families. The *Bringing Health Reform Home* reports for Kansas City and New Orleans can be found and downloaded on our website under the “Building Health Communities of Opportunity” section.
- **Wyandotte County, KS CCO Initiative:** In collaboration with Communities Creating Opportunity, the Institute is supporting the second phase of Kansas City’s *Bring Health Reform Home* Campaign. Working with several major hospital systems and PICO orga-



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nizers in Kansas City, the Institute is conducting extensive emergency room and chronic disease mapping to understand opportunities for community-based interventions to support health equity.

- **Diabetes and Infant Mortality Hot Spot Interactive Mapping System:** With the support of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, and in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health, the Institute developed the first Health Equity Mapping System for the State of Ohio, mapping diabetes and infant mortality “hot spots” along with social determinants of health. The Institute has utilized these maps to provide a resource for health practitioners, in order to identify areas of highest need and overlay programmatic activities and investments. In addition, the Kirwan Institute has developed a series of policy briefs addressing the impacts of health inequity, the impact of social determinants of health for racial and ethnic groups across the life course, and infant mortality disparities in Ohio. These briefs can be accessed online at:
  - » <http://www.ohiohealthdisparitiescollaborative.org/health-disparities-matter/>
  - » <http://www.ohiohealthdisparitiescollaborative.org/infant-mortality-in-ohio/>
- **Health Equity Mapping Webinar Series:** The Institute hosted a three-part webinar series “There’s a Map for That” for the Michigan Minority Health Coalition. The three-part webinar series covered the following topics:
  - » Part I: Designing a Health Equity Mapping Initiative From Start to Finish
  - » Part II: Introduction to Mapping for Health Equity Advocacy
  - » Part III: Capacity Building and Partnerships
- **Ohio Health Disparities Collaborative Website:** In collaboration with Children’s Defense Fund of Ohio, the Institute assisted in the development and launch of the Ohio Statewide Health Disparities Collaborative website, a comprehensive resource site for policymakers and practitioners working to support health equity. The website is accessible at:
  - » <http://www.ohiohealthdisparitiescollaborative.org/>
- **Committee memberships:** The Institute is actively engaged in several ongoing health equity committees in Ohio, including the Ohio Statewide Health Disparities Collaborative, The Chronic Disease Workgroup for the State of Ohio, the HPIO Social, Economic & Physical Environments Workgroup and the Ohio Infant Mortality Prevention Coalition.
- **Capacity-building presentations, workshops and engagements:** Kirwan Institute staff have presented research, analysis and models for health equity at the following engagements:
  - » Teaching on Environmental Justice and Health Equity, *The Schweitzer Fellows Program*, Ohio
  - » Ohio Governor’s Early Childhood Advisory Council, *The Early Education and Development Office of the Governor*

- » “Saving Ohio’s Babies: Preventing Premature Birth and Other Causes of Our Infant Mortality Crisis,” *March of Dimes Northeast Ohio Regional Convening*
- » “Saving Ohio’s Babies: Preventing Premature Birth and Other Causes of Our Infant Mortality Crisis,” *March of Dimes Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Regional Convening*
- » “Saving Ohio’s Babies: Preventing Premature Birth and Other Causes of Our Infant Mortality Crisis,” *March of Dimes Columbus Regional Convening*
- » “Theories and Criticism of Contemporary Food Systems,” *The Ohio State University’s National Situating Food Symposium*
- » All State Plenary—Quality Improvement Approaches to Social Determinants, *Convening for the Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (CoIIN) to Reduce Infant Mortality featuring The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)*
- » Launch of the Ohio Health Equity Institute, *Sponsored by CityMatch and the Ohio Department of Health*
- » Wyandotte County Health Opportunity Mapping for Equity Initiative, *Kansas City, Kansas*
- » “Food & Nutrition: Building Blocks for Thriving & Resilient Communities,” *Mid Ohio Foodbank Annual Network Meeting; Ohio*
- » “Reclaiming the Narrative,” *W.K. Kellogg Foundation National 2013 America Healing Conference*
- » Building Data Capacity for Racial Equity Convening, *Hosted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, Michigan*
- » The Ohio Statewide Summit to Prevent Infant Mortality
- » The ACHIEVE Healthy Policies for Healthy Children Action Institute, *Columbus Department of Health*
- » Michigan Minority Health Commission Patient Advocacy Leaders Summit: Improving Healthcare Delivery Systems in Communities of Color
- » CityMatch (The National Organization of Urban MCH Leaders) National Conference
- » Interdisciplinary Research Training Institute on Hispanic Drug Abuse (IRTI), *Sponsored by the National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse & the Center for Drug and Social Policy Research at University of Houston*

## Our 2014 Health Equity Research Agenda

The Kirwan Institute will focus on marginalized communities and deepen the understanding of multigenerational effects of neighborhood disadvantage on health, well being and mortality. The Institute believes our interactive mapping tools that identify health “hot spots” and develop asset and opportunity maps to support health equity is a strategy that can be expanded nationally. Along with addressing structural issues, we believe it is imperative to include our “Race and Cognition” research into the domain of health, with an emphasis on the role of implicit bias on diagnostic disparities and the impacts of trauma on disparities in youth development. Finally, we will identify cross-sector “best practices” in place-based initiatives, and disseminate an in-depth examination of those practices using creative multimedia strategies.

After our initial two years of relationship building, internal capacity building and pilot projects, the Institute is pleased to announce the following forthcoming health equity projects:

- **Collaboration with Place Matters Cleveland:** The Institute is collaborating with Cuyahoga County Public Health, and other members of the Place Matters team in Cleveland, Ohio to assist in developing a historical analysis of policies that have led to place-based health inequities and disparities in Cleveland.
- **Collaborative partnership with the CareSource:** The Institute is collaborating with the Ohio Department of Health and the managed care provider CareSource to explore collaborative initiatives to bridge patient and social determinants data, in order to target community-based interventions. The emerging collaboration will explore research in the domains of infant and maternal health and substance abuse.
- **Summer Educational Offerings:** The Institute is collaborating with The Ohio State University’s College of Public Health to offer an in-depth, one week mini course for students and practitioners in June of 2014. The course, “Place and Health Equity,” addresses community-based and social determinants of health, including the role of poverty, housing, education, trauma, stress, bias and discrimination in health outcomes and health equity.
- **Maternal Health & Infant Mortality Asset Mapping:** Working in collaboration with the Greater Columbus Infant Mortality Task Force, the Institute will help conduct community-wide asset mapping, to identify challenges and opportunities, current programming, and gaps in services for infant and maternal health in Franklin County, Ohio.
- **Research Reports and Policy Briefs:** In addition to the collaborations identified above, the Institute will be releasing a series of research reports and policy briefs related to health equity in 2014:
  - » *Place, Race and Infant Mortality: A Case Study of Ohio*
  - » *Place, Race and Diabetes: A Case Study of Ohio*
  - » *Race & Cognition: The Role of Implicit Bias in Diagnostic Disparities*
  - » *Race & Cognition: The Role of Trauma in Child Development Disparities*
  - » *A Tale of Two Neighborhoods: Patterns in Life Expectancy Across Ohio’s Geography of Opportunity*

**Strengthening existing and developing new partnerships** locally and nationally is paramount. We are in ongoing discussions with *Boston Scientific's* "Close the Gap" initiative and with the American Association of Medical Colleges. For more information about the Kirwan Institute's health equity program, or to explore potential partnerships, please contact Jason Reece, Director of Research at: [reece.35@osu.edu](mailto:reece.35@osu.edu).

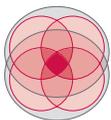
This publication was produced by the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University. As a university-wide, interdisciplinary research institute, the Kirwan Institute works to deepen understanding of the causes of—and solutions to—racial and ethnic disparities worldwide and to bring about a society that is fair and just for all people.

Kirwan Institute research is designed to be actively used to solve problems in society. Its research and staff expertise are shared through an extensive network of colleagues and partners—ranging from other researchers, grassroots social justice advocates, policy-makers, and community leaders nationally and globally, who can quickly put ideas into action.

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## For More Information

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University is known and respected nationally and deeply engaged in social issues. We are focused on projects that are integrated with sound research, strategic communication, and advocacy. To learn more, visit [www.kirwaninstitute.osu.edu](http://www.kirwaninstitute.osu.edu).



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