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Dear UHC Community,

Below is the first edition of the Community Engaged UHC Newsletter.

This newsletter connects academic researchers and community organizations, members, and leaders, with the aim of sharing events, actions, and resources for community-engaged research and supporting our partners. UHC members are encouraged to share it with community partners to help promote this initiative. We also hope this newsletter will help researchers share findings that can inspire further engagement. For it to be effective, we need contributions from the entire UHC community and welcome any feedback. Please submit feedback [here](#) and subscribe to receive future updates [here](#).

-The UHC Community Engagement Core



Vol. 1 (December 2024)

About

The Community Engaged UHC Newsletter aims to facilitate and nurture partnerships between academic researchers and community leaders and organizations. Twice per year, we will share research projects and partners, events, actions, and resources related to community-engaged research. Similarly, community members and organizations are encouraged to share their data and research needs with us so that we can connect people. The UHC's Community Engagement Core welcomes feedback on this initiative [here](#) and you may subscribe below:

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Who We Are

The [Urban Health Collaborative \(UHC\)](#) at Drexel University's Dornsife School of Public Health aims to improve health in cities by increasing scientific knowledge and public awareness of urban health challenges and opportunities, identifying and promoting actions and policies that improve population health, and reducing health inequities.

[UHC's Community Engagement \(CE\) Core](#) aims to facilitate and strengthen engagement between the UHC and surrounding communities, with the goal of fostering health equity and addressing local needs. Meet the team below!



This Edition: At a Glance

- **Community-Engaged Research Spotlight:** Sustainability of Violence Prevention After Vacant Lot Greening in Philadelphia: 10-year Follow-Up
- **Partnership Spotlight:** Esperanza College
- **Upcoming Events and Opportunities**
- **Recent Work and Resources**
- **Stay Connected with Us!**
- **Request for Feedback**

Community-Engaged Research Spotlight

Sustainability of Violence Prevention after Vacant Lot Greening in Philadelphia: 10-Year Follow-Up

This study explores the impacts of greening vacant lots on reducing violence in Philadelphia. The study uses a community-engaged approach and partners with local residents to conduct, interpret, and learn from the results. Residents have been trained to become community researchers (CRs) and have been involved in multiple ways: 1) conducting interviews with residents who live near vacant lots throughout Philadelphia, 2) assisting in analyzing the results of interviews with

residents, and 3) completing audits or assessments of lots using Google Street view images.

Residents were asked about their concerns with vacant lots, whether or not they see a link between greened lots and the level of violence in their community, and how best these lots can be used to benefit their community. Community researchers add substantial value to the project and context to the study's results, since many CRs know these lots well and their evolution and role in the community that other researchers may not know.

Stay tuned for more results and a discussion about the importance of community engagement in this research project! If you would like to learn more about the study, methodology, or get involved, please contact Maggie Beverly at mmb393@drexel.edu.



June 2011



June 2019

Images: Example of a lot that underwent the process of "greening." In 2011, the lot contained weeds and did not have a fence or other features. By 2019, the lot was cleared of overgrown vegetation. A fence and trees for shade were also added.

Partnership Spotlight



Esperanza College
of EASTERN UNIVERSITY

For nearly four decades, [Esperanza](#) has been committed to “strengthening our Hispanic communities.” Esperanza provides services to individuals and their families in Hunting Park, the heart of Hispanic North Philadelphia, and beyond. Esperanza College of Eastern University is the only federally recognized Hispanic-Serving Institution in the state of Pennsylvania. Esperanza College is expanding access to opportunity in STEM related fields to underserved and underrepresented youth and supporting Hispanic youth to overcome obstacles to pursuing STEM-related professions. This year, Esperanza hosted its 8th annual Minorities in Health Science Symposium on Friday, November 8th and the Drexel UHC was a proud sponsor of the event.

To learn more about Esperanza College of Eastern University, visit their [website](#) and check out their [Instagram](#).

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- **Webinars and Speakers**

Check out our [webinars & speakers series](#) to hear more about exciting new urban health research!

- **Did we miss anything?**

Do you have an event or opportunity (job opening, request for applications, grant funding announcement, request for a student assistant or volunteer, etc.) that you would like posted in this newsletter? Please submit it [here](#).

Resources and Recent Work

- **Elections and Health**

Check out the latest UHC Policy Core's blog's post discussing the impact of the Nov. 5th election on health [here](#).

- **Community-Academic Partnerships**

Read the UHC Community Engagement Core's latest Community Brief on the West Philly Promise Neighborhood, one example of a successful community-academic partnership, [here](#).



Image: West Philly Promise Neighborhood Survey Team

- **Need Data?**

Do you need access to data that is relevant to your community or study population of interest? Check out these data dashboards: [UHC Data Portal](#) and [Big Cities Health Coalition Data Portal](#). You may also request West Philly Promise Neighborhood data with [this form](#).

Stay Connected with Us!

- Get in touch with the UHC by email at UHC@drexel.edu.
- To contact the UHC Community Engagement Core directly, please email: communityengagedUHC@drexel.edu.
- Follow the UHC on social media:



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Request for Feedback

Please let us know how we're doing! We encourage everyone who reads this to share their feedback [here](#) as we hone this new initiative.

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