

Centre for Research Development

Building Collaborative Research Infrastructures for Population Health Research

20th IUHPE World
Conference on Health
Promotion

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Centre for Urban Health Initiatives



Seven Centres for Research Development

*Funded in partnership with the Lung Association, IRSST and the CIHR Rural Health Initiative



The Centre for Urban Health Initiatives

Seven Centres for Research Development

- **Population Health Intervention Research Centre**
- **Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture**
- **Centre for Urban Health Initiatives**
- **Asthma in the Workplace Centre**
- **Centre de recherche Léa-Roback sur les inégalités sociales et de santé de Montréal**
- **Atlantic Networks for Prevention Research**
- **Atlantic Rural Environments and Health Centre**



CUHI Objectives

- Support scholarship in relevant & emerging areas of environment / health relationships
- Improve collaboration among disciplines and sectors to define, conduct and apply programs of research
- Provide training and mentoring for research
- Build capacity for community collaboration in research
- Create opportunities for knowledge exchange

CUHI – Values and Principles

Dedicated to:

- building interdisciplinary research scholarship on urban environment and health relationships in collaboration with community and policy research users
- addressing emerging population and public health issues
- meaningful engagement with research users (i.e. community and policy decision makers)
- sustainable research capacity building across disciplines and sectors

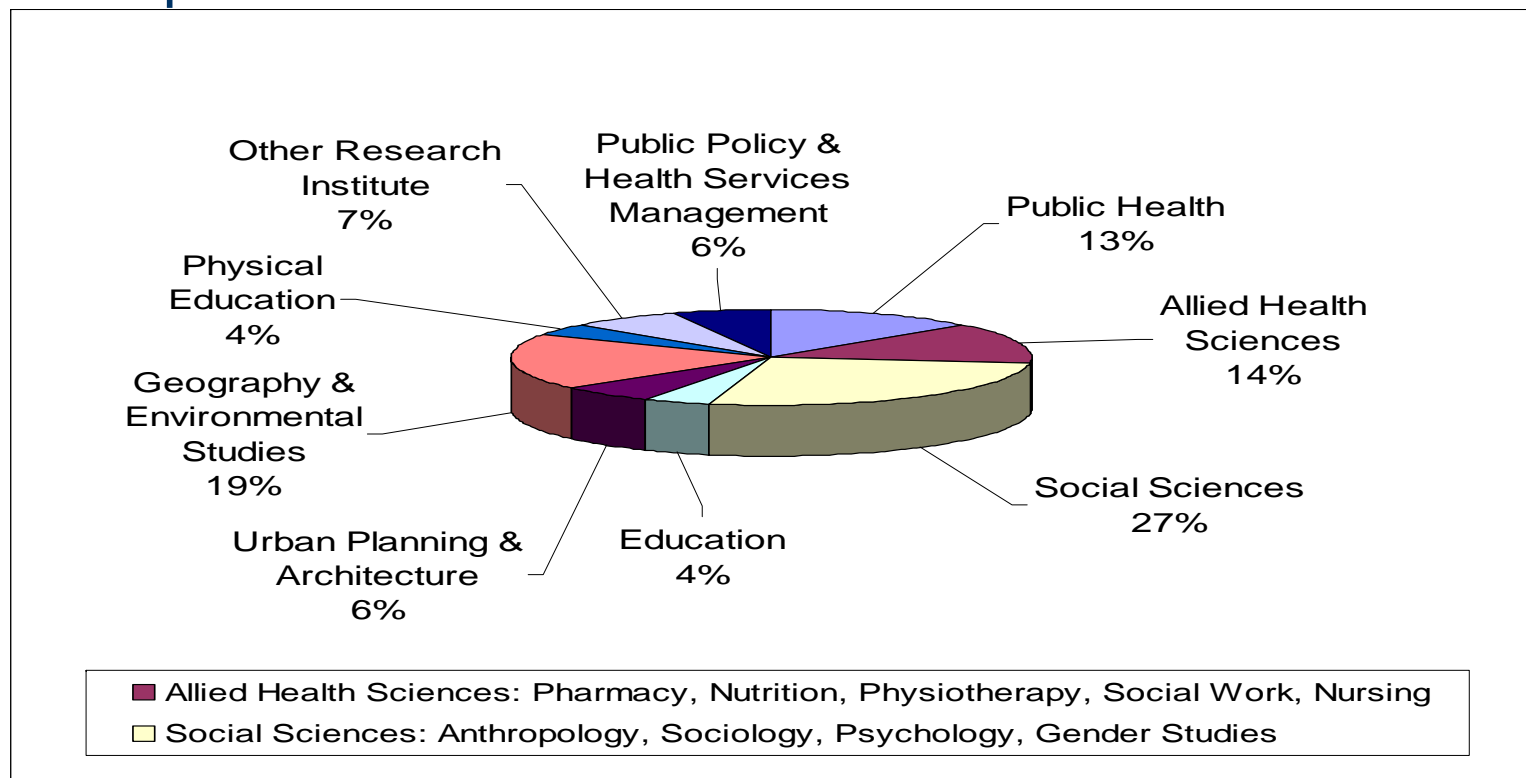
CUHI Research Associates: their Disciplines and Partners

- 109 academic research associates – financially supported or participate in governance
- Span 18 different disciplines across 18 Universities
- Majority of associates are new to population and public health research in past five years
- About half are junior faculty or investigators
- 173 community and policy partners identified by researchers as engaged in research

Context: CUHI supported research must have engaged community or policy partners

CUHI Research Associates: their Disciplines and Partners

109 academic research associates represent 18 disciplines





CUHI Research Interest Groups (RIGs)

RIGS, seed grants and student supports are main strategies for research development and for setting research agenda

RIG Objectives:

- Bring together relevant stakeholders to support and stimulate emerging research ideas around a common research theme. Stakeholders include academics, community and / or policy stakeholders
- Support the creation of inter-disciplinary research teams with community and policy partners
- Support the development of research proposals for seed grant funding and for submission to external granting bodies



CUHI RIGs and Research Themes (Early RIGs)

Food and Urban Agriculture and Health

- food policies and programs and how they influence health of urban residents (15 project teams)

Neighbourhoods and Health

- influence of social, economic, service and built environments of n'hds and effect on health (27 project teams)

Physical Environment and Health

- health effects of physical stressors in the urban environment (10 project teams)



CUHI RIGs and Research Themes (Additional RIGs in 2008)

Socio-ecological Strategies for the Prevention and Management of Chronic Disease

- focus on built environment, ethnicity and CDPM, health literacy, intersectoral models of practice (10 project teams)

Urban Youth and the Social Determinants of Sexual Health

- focus on HIV/AIDS prevention, sexual health and harm reduction; intersectoral approaches to equity (8 project teams)

Environmental Health Justice

- inequities in environmental health with a particular focus on vulnerable populations (6 project teams)

Community and Policy Partners

Diverse range of partners engaged in research
(n – 173)

- ❑ Public Health Departments
- ❑ Community Health Centres
- ❑ School Boards
- ❑ Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- ❑ United Way of Greater Toronto
- ❑ Toronto Emergency Medical Services
- ❑ Pedestrian Planning Network
- ❑ Food Share
- ❑ Heart and Stroke Foundation
- ❑ Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Examples of Engagement in Research

- Use of 911 Ambulance Dispatch Data for the Syndromic Surveillance of Heat Related Illness in Toronto
Partners: TPH and Toronto Emergency Medical Services
- School Grounds and Health: Influence of School Ground Design on Children's Physical Activity and Related Health Benefits
Partners: Evergreen and Toronto District School Board
- Examining Determinants of Health among Immigrant Populations
Partners: Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre
- Building Community Health Mapping Tools to Investigate and Reduce Racialized Health Disparities within and across N'hds
Partners: Access Alliance and 4 other CHC's



Building Partnerships, Building Strength

Strategies used for building capacity for community collaboration in research:

- Participation in Centre Governance
- Seed grant awards (RIG and CBR seed grants)
- Providing networking opportunities through knowledge exchange forums
- Community Based Research award of merit
- Supportive outreach and networks
- Community internships
- Project Advisory Committees
- Providing access to graduate students

Community Internships

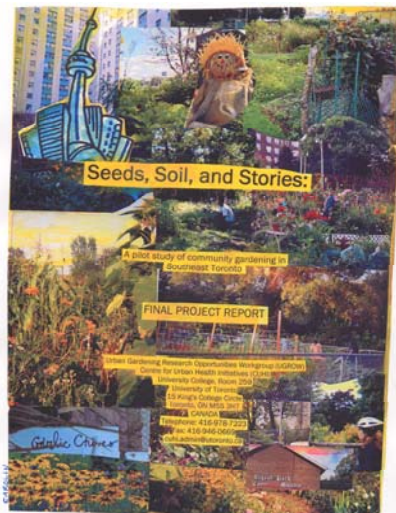


- Skill enhancing opportunity for community members through active engagement in centre's research
- Provides learning opportunities for a community service provider to learn and conduct CBR
- Builds capacity for community agency to conduct its own research
- Community release time provided to host community agency

Engagement with Stakeholder Users in Research

Community Internship

Skills-enhancing opportunities in urban health research for community & policy stakeholders



2004-2006: Community Gardening in South-East Toronto



2007-2008: Parkdale Youth Needs Assessment

Engagement with Stakeholder Users in Research

Knowledge Exchange Venues:

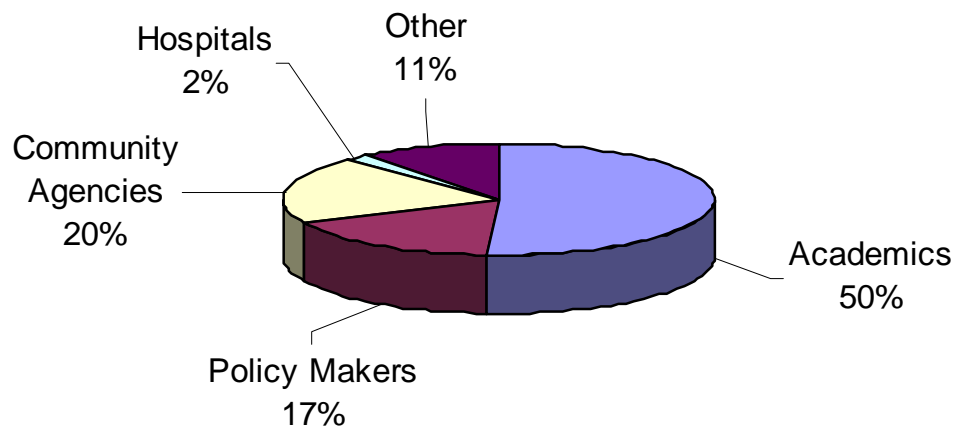
- Spotlight on Urban Health evolved to RIG sponsored monthly seminars
- Annual Policy Forum
- Bi-weekly list serve
- Biannual newsletter
- CUHI website



Engagement with Stakeholder Users in Research

Spotlight on Urban Health Seminar Series

Figure 6: 2004-2007 "Spotlight on Urban Health Research" Seminar Series Attendance (n=255)



Engagement with Stakeholder Users in Research

Community-Based Research Award of Merit

- Co-sponsored by the Wellesley Institute
 - 2006: “Party Drugs in Toronto’s Gay Dance Club Scene Project”
 - 2007: “Toronto Teen Survey”
 - 2008: Street Health, Street Stories



Research Development Highlights

- Centre platforms have provided spaces for interdisciplinary researcher and research user dialogue that responds to local needs
- Seed grants support projects relevant to the RIGs, show a likelihood of developing into successful grant submissions and demonstrate active engagement with community or policy members
- Numerous spin-off projects and new inter-disciplinary teams
- Meaningful linkages between researchers, policy makers and community organizations
- New resources and funding have been leveraged through partnerships with academic, community and policy organizations

www.utoronto.ca/cuhi



WELCOME!

Bringing together researchers, policy makers and the community to support urban health research development.

What is the Centre for Urban Health Initiatives (CUHI)?

Through research and partnership building, the Centre for Urban Health Initiatives (CUHI) is helping to create a better understanding of the impact of physical and social environments on the health of urban residents.

Located at the University of Toronto, CUHI fosters research development, collaboration and knowledge exchange between individuals committed to urban health, including academic and community researchers, community service providers, policy makers, and health practitioners.

Founded in 2004, and funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Population and Public Health, CUHI supports scholarship in relevant and emerging areas of urban health, focusing to date on neighbourhoods, food security & urban agriculture, physical environments, youth sexual health, chronic disease prevention & management, environmental health justice and policy pathways for equitable health and health care. The Centre brings together researchers from different disciplines, provides training and mentoring for research in urban health relationships, creates opportunities for knowledge exchange, and builds partnerships between researchers, policy-makers and communities.

In collaboration with the Wellesley Institute on a number of initiatives, CUHI brings policy makers, community partners and academics from many disciplines together to make great community-based urban health research happen – research that leads to improved public policy.

CUHI Announces Fall 2009 Seed Grant Recipients!

Call for Submissions for the 2010 "Urban Youth and the Sexual Determinants of Health" Student Research Symposium

CUHI Recognized for Social Innovation!

New Environmental Health Justice in the City Website launched!

CUHI Newsletter Notable News

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