



Community Engagement Program and Activities New Brunswick Region

Middlesex County and Franklin Township

Rutgers Health Community Engagement Programs and Activities

New Brunswick Region

(Middlesex County and Franklin Township)
Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Rutgers Health is pleased to share this report and to continue highlighting community programs and services needed to achieve better health outcomes. Community engagement and service have been a fundamental cornerstone for us for many years and are engrained in the mission of Rutgers Health. We remain committed to meaningful engagement with the communities we serve, to advance research, education, and clinical care through service that addresses relevant community health challenges and needs.

School of Nursing

- **Community Partnerships** – Community engagement is embedded into the School of Nursing curriculum, and as such, the school teams with a variety of organizations across the city, county, and state for clinical partnerships for students. Students lead and participate in a wide range of activities including health education and screening programs for seniors, community baby showers, and diaper and food drives. They also complete home safety assessments and deliver nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities in collaboration with Meals on Wheels. The School of Nursing collaborates and partners with organizations within the Greater New Brunswick area, including those listed below, to help improve access to health care systems, deliver quality clinical care, and provide health education in the community:

- Caresparc Community Connections
- Central Jersey Diaper Bank
- Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
- City of New Brunswick
- Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
- Lazo America Unida
- Meals on Wheels of Greater New Brunswick
- Mobile Family Success Center
- New Brunswick Tomorrow
- RWJBarnabas Health
- Safe Kids Middlesex
- Saint Peter’s University Family Health Center
- Saint Peter’s University Hospital
- Visiting Nurse Association Health Group / RWJUH Visiting Nurses

- **Child Health Program (CHP)**—CHP is a partnership between the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center (FXBC) within the Rutgers School of Nursing. The mission of the CHP is to improve the health and well-being of children and families in New Jersey. The program supports the goals of the DCF and the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) by orienting, educating, and supporting nurses to provide compassionate trauma-informed nursing care. There are three Child Health Units staffed with six nurses and three staff assistants in Middlesex County. They are part of a statewide program that provides health care case management services to 195 children in out-of-home placement. Services include participating in case conferences, litigation conferences, and treatment team meetings. Nurses complete Pre-Placement Assessments (PPAs) when a child enters out-of-home placement, and this occurs in the local CP&P office. Nurses also complete scheduled home visits and participate in monthly family engagement meetings that include fathers. Additionally, the program provides PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education) training to all potential foster parents. CHP adheres to the health care recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Child Welfare League of America for children and adolescents.
- **Community Organization Placements** — The New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing (NJCCN)/New Jersey Action Coalition (NJAC) worked with faculty to support matching Rutgers nursing undergraduates through leadership graduate students with community organization placements. Students had an opportunity to use their nursing clinical skills and knowledge of the social determinants of health to educate and provide screenings, research, data, and best practices. This opportunity encouraged students to engage with diverse populations within their communities. The community organizations gained the value of having nursing students working with their population and providing valuable education, resources, and, most importantly, genuine connections and care.
- **COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Clinics** — School of Nursing (SON) faculty, staff, and students played a key role in the mobilization of COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites in the State of New Jersey throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. SON students and faculty have supported vaccination efforts by volunteering at the Rutgers University VAX Corps sites. As part of their clinical preparation, students and faculty completed clinical requirements at vaccine sites from June 2021 through May 2022, supporting all aspects of a critical public vaccination initiative.
- **Rutgers University Community Researchers/Investigators in Science Program (RU-CRISP)**— A community-academic partnership between New Brunswick-based Lazos America Unida and Rutgers School of Nursing, this program was designed to train second-generation Mexican immigrant teenagers as citizen scientists to address obesity among Mexican immigrant families. A virtual training program took place in the summer of 2020. The content included an overview of citizen science, obesity and food insecurity, introduction to research, data collection

techniques and analysis for nutrition and physical activity and community-based participatory methods. Classes were taught by Rutgers faculty and promotoras/community health workers and emphasized bi-directional learning. Eight of the 11 teenagers completed the training. Active learning strategies, e.g., group discussion, debates, and role-playing were used to help students understand the health policy and public health implications of obesity. Results indicate there is great promise in the use of second-generation Mexican immigrant teenagers as citizen scientists. Data obtained will be used to inform future studies using community health workers/promotoras to improve health outcomes among Latino immigrant families in NJ.

➤ **Noyollo DW- NJ, A community health worker training program for Latina domestic workers** – Noyollo is a Nahuatl indigenous word for “my heart” and reflects the fact that more than one fifth of domestic workers (DWs) in NJ are Mexican immigrants. The Nahuatl phrase “Mitztemoa Noyollo” loosely translates to “My heart is looking out for you,” in reference to the fact that these immigrant women often feel alone and unappreciated in the vital work they perform. To strengthen the skills of New Brunswick-area Latina DWs as promotoras de salud/community health organizers using Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) methods, we planned to:

- 1) Examine COVID concerns and incidence/prevalence of the pandemic in the NJ Latina DW community;
- 2) Identify and address community-defined COVID- and non-COVID-related health priorities, particularly cancer prevention activities, among DWs; and
- 3) Identify mental health resources for DWs.

The remote training program was held in summer of 2021. The content included an overview of community health workers/citizen scientists, motivation to change health behaviors, leadership and empowerment strategies, ethics and confidentiality issues, major causes of morbidity and mortality among Latino immigrants (including heart disease and various types of cancer), COVID-19 basics, first aid and CPR classes. Classes were taught in Spanish by Rutgers faculty and promotoras/community health workers and emphasized bi-directional learning. Nine participants completed the initial training. At the end of the training, the women felt they were comfortable with the content presented in class but still felt uncomfortable training other DWs to help deliver these services. Additional classes were added in health behavior theories, teaching skills, and popular education to strengthen their preparation. Future plans may include development of a network for DW health and wellness resources throughout New Jersey, in partnership with organizations such as the Center for Women and Work at Rutgers and New Labor.

- **Nursing Student Reserve Corps** — As COVID-19 surged in late December 2022, Rutgers School of Nursing responded to the state’s call for assistance to hospitals struggling with extremely high caseloads. The school established the Student Nurse Reserve Corps, which recruited Rutgers volunteer undergraduate nursing students and placed them at St. Peter’s Medical Center and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick and other facilities across the state. The students were assigned tasks that require little training, thereby freeing up professional nursing staff to focus on more complicated patient care. Student nurse reservists answered phones, transported patients in wheelchairs, and spent time with patients who needed observation. More than 200 students applied for the program and more than 90 students were placed within a week. While the program was envisioned as a short-term solution meeting an urgent need, many of the students stayed on in per diem roles after the crisis had eased. Rutgers students have supported the health care system since the earliest days of the pandemic: In April 2020, [medical, dental, and pharmacy students were among the first](#) in the nation to graduate early to assist with the initial wave of COVID-19 patients.

School of Public Health

Community engagement and public health practice are fundamental components of the educational experience at the Rutgers School of Public Health. The Office for Community Engagement and Public Health Practice facilitates practice experiences for students, builds partnerships with community organizations, and promotes interaction and collaboration between community partners, students, and faculty.

- **Center for Public Health Workforce Development** — This center provides education and training for public health professionals across NJ. In 2022-2023, they trained 23,067 people in occupational safety and public health courses related to disease prevention and health promotion.
- **PHocus Summer Experience** — This program introduces high school students to the broad and interdisciplinary field of public health. PHocus (Public Health: Outbreaks, Communities, and Urban Studies) enables high school students to explore population health and learn the fundamentals of epidemiology. During PHocus, students:
 - 1) enhance their science literacy and health literacy skills using public health as the context for learning;
 - 2) interact with public health professionals and researchers;
 - 3) become aware of a variety of public health careers; and
 - 4) learn how to take action to improve their own health.

- **Equity in Action Summer Internship Program (EASI)** — In collaboration with the Vice Chancellor for Interprofessional Programs and the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the school facilitates this service-learning program across NJ. EASI places interdisciplinary teams of students in community sites where student teams work full time for seven weeks in the summer, helping agencies with projects of importance to the community. Example sites in Camden are Hope Community Outreach, Project Hope, Camden Area Health Education Center, and Planned Parenthood. The program focuses on social determinants of health with a social justice lens, e.g., racial equity and environmental justice. Another example is our partnership in Middlesex County with the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Community Health program. Working in interprofessional teams of three to four, students are placed at participating community sites in areas where they create a program with the guidance of a community site preceptor and EASI co-directors.
- **New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center** — The NJGVRC conducts multidisciplinary research on gun violence causality and prevention and translates this research into clear and actionable policies and programs to create safe and healthy environments. They partner with local, state, and national experts, accessing data to conduct research that identifies factors involved in gun violence. They also facilitated a community day dialogue with hundreds of participants across NJ.
- **Rutgers Preventive Medicine Residency Program** — The residency program on preventive medicine requires two years of public health training after one or more years of clinical residency. These two years consist of academic coursework leading to an MPH degree and practice rotations offering experience in preventive medicine and public health. Students in the preventive medicine residency program practice public health and medicine in underresourced areas of NJ. Practice sites for this program include the Department of Veterans Affairs; NJ Department of Health; Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; NJ Medical School; NJ Poison Information and Education System; USDA Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and the School of Health Professions, among others.
- **Rutgers Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program** — Residents in the occupational and environmental medicine residency program are required to obtain an MPH degree. This training is an integrated academic and public health practice experience over the course of two years. The public health practice experience begins early in the first year, providing opportunities for independent clinical work. Residents have exposure to administrative aspects of occupational medicine, medical surveillance, disability disease prevention, health promotion, epidemiologic studies, and health hazard evaluations. Students in this program also practice public health and medicine in underresourced areas of NJ.

- **Community Health Justice Laboratory** — Mental health first aid trainings were developed and implemented across correctional facilities of NJ.
- **Center for Environmental Exposures and Diseases, Community Engagement Core**—This core empowers environmental justice, enabling vulnerable and exposed communities to effect complex systems changes that improve environmental health. The center translates and disseminates scientific knowledge and research findings that are responsive to community needs and inform decisions by health care providers, stakeholders, policy makers, and regulators in communities of NJ.
- **Rutgers University School of Public Health Scholarship Program** — This program aims to increase the capacity of public health systems to meet the core public health functions and ten essential public health services, thereby decreasing public health inequities and health disparities. The program works by enhancing the knowledge and skills of the public health workforce; educating the public health workforce to address public health inequities and health disparities and incorporate principles of social determinants of health into practice; and educating the public health workforce to prevent, prepare for, and respond to recovery activities related to COVID-19. More than 50 trainees have been awarded scholarships and are currently receiving trainings as part of this program.
- **Optimizing a Community-Based Health Worker Intervention to Address Health Inequities in New Brunswick** — This project aims to bolster the implementation of a community-based health worker intervention tailored to the needs of the Latino population in New Brunswick. Additionally, it seeks to provide evidence through a process evaluation to further refine and optimize the intervention’s execution. More than 2,000 Latinos in New Brunswick are expected to benefit from this project, which leverages the power of community-driven initiatives to dismantle health inequities.
- **Development of Training Program for Health-Related Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in New Jersey Providing Services to LGBTQA+ People** — This project designed and pilot-tested a training program for CBOs that provide LGBTQA+ health-related services in NJ using a community-engaged approach. The project partnered with CBOs in NJ, conducted focus groups with LGBTQA+ clients at these organizations, and assessed the usability of the training. This process ensured the trainings were centered on the experiences of the local communities, that members of the community participated in the process of development, and potential users were engaged to achieve the goals of the trainings.

Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy students and faculty work with surrounding communities to provide critically important education, research, clinical services, and community outreach programs. These collaborative projects benefit diverse communities in New Jersey.

➤ **Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP) COVID-19 Community Vaccination Program**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the authorization of emergency use vaccines, EMSOP created a collaborative multifaceted response encompassing training and education in alliance with the state pharmacists association; engagement of students, preceptors, faculty, and staff in vaccine distribution at immunization distribution centers and clinics around the state; and creation of the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences VAXCorps, an interprofessional health care group comprised of students, faculty, and staff volunteers, to assist with the coordination of a mass vaccination response for our university community and stakeholders. Students, clinical faculty members, and preceptors at EMSOP supported a massive immunization program by taking on varied roles in vaccine distribution and clinic support, including patient education, scheduling, pre-vaccination screening, immunization, and post-immunization monitoring.

Our school community of students, faculty, preceptors, and staff has been integral in supporting statewide COVID-19 immunization distribution and education and training for expanding the immunizer workforce. The program rapidly enlarged the immunization provider workforce to meet the demands of a mass immunization response and enabled students who completed program requirements to graduate early and join the workforce. Immunization administration training programs for pharmacists and for pharmacy technicians have enabled more than 90 pharmacists, 400 students, and 30 pharmacy technicians to fulfill vaccination training requirements.

From May 2021 through September 2022, EMSOP served as a point of destination (POD) vaccination site for the New Brunswick community, providing services for individuals aged six months to 99 years. With active participation by faculty, staff, and students, the POD site administered approximately 20,000 COVID-19 vaccines. The school provided collaborative training and education in injection competency in alliance with the state pharmacists association.

The VAX clinic also developed a custom-built data system to post clinic events, manage Rutgers VAXCorps volunteers and staffing, and provide registration, check-in, and vaccination records. The database also exported information to the New Jersey Immunization Information System, providing vaccination records, inventory of vaccines dispensed, and a performance dashboard for senior leadership on vaccination efforts and efficiency. This project represented a major collaboration between the School and the New Jersey Department of Health as well as other partnerships with health-related entities across the university and the state.

The VAX clinic also provided a significant opportunity for interprofessional experiential learning, involving students in Rutgers' pharmacy, medicine, physician assistant, nursing, social work, and public health programs. The collective experiences they shared while responding to community health care needs will ultimately improve coordination, trust, and good practice in health care.

➤ **New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC)**

The School of Pharmacy works with the New Jersey Reentry Corporation, a non-profit agency whose mission is to eliminate barriers to employment for citizens returning from incarceration. If an individual is unhealthy, they are more likely to be unemployed due to medical reasons. Through the outreach programs of NJRC, people learn about preventive medicine for common health challenges such as high blood pressure, diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, and immunizations during weekly hour-long interactive presentations and post-program blood pressure screenings. Pharmacy and medical students and faculty collaborate to develop and present these interprofessional programs.

➤ **Blood Drives**

Serving as blood donor ambassadors, EMSOP students regularly participate in blood drives, such as the Community Blood Drive at the Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy and the East Brunswick Blood Drive sponsored by the Princeton American Red Cross.

➤ **Community Pharmacy Partnerships**

EMSOP students work in collaboration with community pharmacies in Middlesex County on COVID and flu education and vaccination projects, patient health education, and outreach, including blood pressure screenings, diabetes education, and asthma/COPD education. Pharmacies include chain and privately held businesses in Edison, Metuchen, Milltown, New Brunswick, North Brunswick, Old Bridge, Piscataway, and Woodbridge.

➤ **Community Partnerships**

EMSOP students, in collaboration with staff at New Brunswick hospitals, provide a wide range of health-related community education programs, including Project V.O.I.C.E. at St. Peter's University Hospital, and a variety of programs at RWJUniversity Hospital, including Antibiotic Awareness Week, World Patient Safety Day, and the Health/Wellness Program.

➤ **Student Initiatives**

Students participate in community outreach programs at sites around Middlesex County and Franklin Township, in food pantries, soup kitchens, and clothing drives. For example, they volunteer at Aldersgate Outreach Community Center, East Brunswick; Ved Mandir, Milltown; Shirdi Sai Cultural and Community

Center, Iselin; Elijah's Promise, New Brunswick; and Five Loaves Food Pantry, New Brunswick. Students also support the University's Health Services through participation in flu vaccine drives.

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, a division of the Department of Pediatrics, is a Community Health Program of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS). As New Jersey's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service, a federal designation awarded by the Administration on Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Boggs Center provides a life span/life course approach to addressing the university's mission of education, service, research, and the health of diverse communities. The Boggs Center is also designated as New Jersey's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NJLEND) program, funded under the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support (CARES) Act and administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). Through leveraged extramural funding, including federal (HRSA, MCHB) and state resources (Division of Developmental Disabilities, NJ Department of Human Services; Office of Special Education, NJ Department of Education, and the Children's System of Care, NJ Department of Children and Families), The Boggs Center has an impact on the local, state, and national community. To realize our mission and mandates to address the health and well-being of children and adults with disabilities, especially those with early onset disabilities and their families, The Boggs Center works with a variety of health care providers as well as providers of other human services, and the systems and agencies who provide service to increase community capacity. Complementing interventions that address the needs of those who have disabilities, efforts are also dedicated to prevention of disability and mitigating the impact of disability on life functioning. The Boggs Center's community activities, summarized below, are presented to reflect the life span/life course engagement and impact of our work with families and young children, school-age children, the transition to adulthood, and the aging of the population.

- **NJ Medical Assistance Advisory Council-Technical Assistance/Service on Committee** — The Boggs Center's executive director serves as chair of the federally required New Jersey Medical Assistance Advisory Council which advises the Department of Human Services Assistant Commissioner of Medical Assistance and Health Services in matters of medical care and health services for NJ FamilyCare members (New Jersey's Medicaid and Child Health Insurance Program [CHIP]) and fosters communication with the public and stakeholder input.
- **Help Me Grow NJ State Physician Champion** — Help Me Grow (HMG) is a free, confidential telephone access point that connects families with young children (birth to five years old) to local family support services. Community resource specialists speak to families about their needs and connect them to their county's central intake for local services and programs. A faculty member

from the Pediatrics Department and The Boggs Center serves as a HMG NJ State Physician Champion.

- **Community training** — Boggs Center faculty provided training about parent-engaged developmental monitoring, connection to resources, and supporting resilience in families of young children across the state during the pandemic through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of New Jersey’s Act Early COVID-19 Response Team.
- **Health education: Vaccine Facts** — Boggs Center faculty and staff developed a “Vaccine Facts” series of one-page fact sheets for families of children with disabilities, addressing common myths about COVID vaccines, through funding from the federal Administration on Community Living. Available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Portuguese, and Tagalog, the series includes resources with information to promote vaccination in the disability community and can be accessed on the center’s website: boggscenter.rwjms.rutgers.edu/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccine-resources-for-the-developmental-disabilities-community.
- **Health education: Webinar** — Boggs Center faculty partnered with The New Jersey Department of Human Services to produce and deliver a [webinar](#), “Considerations for Individuals with Disabilities at COVID-19 Vaccination Sites,” addressing accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The webinar served as a guide to help ensure COVID-19 vaccines are accessible to all New Jerseyans, including individuals with disabilities. The accommodations highlighted in the webinar can also be applied broadly to any health care setting or encounter to promote a healthier New Jersey for everyone: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sd6QRzTV1g.
- **Health education: Equity in Action Summer Internship** — The Boggs Center supported two students who completed the Equity in Action Summer Internship (EASI) program at The Arc of New Jersey, located in North Brunswick.
- **NJ Positive Behavior Supports in Schools - Community Training and Technical Assistance** — Through New Jersey Positive Behavior Supports in Schools (NJ PBSIS), a collaboration between the NJ Department of Education and The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, professional development on the implementation of a multitier system of support for social, emotional, and behavioral wellness was delivered asynchronously (through Canvas) or synchronously (through Zoom). Personnel from the central office of school buildings in the following districts within the New Brunswick region participated in training or webinars: Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District (Somerset), Trenton Public Schools (Mercer), Franklin Township Public Schools (Somerset), Edison Township Public School District (Middlesex), Woodbridge School District (Middlesex), Elizabeth Public Schools (Union), Clark Public School District (Union), and Linden Public Schools (Union).

- **NJ Positive Behavior Supports in Schools - Coaching** — Coaching was provided via email, telephone, and/or video conferences to aid implementation of a multitier support system for social, emotional, and behavioral wellness in pre-K through 12th grade public school settings. Participating districts/schools in the New Brunswick region included Sayreville School District-Woodrow Wilson Elementary School; Edison Township Public Schools, Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, and Menlo Park Elementary School; Franklin Township Public Schools, Bridgewater-Raritan Regional High School; East Brunswick School District, Hammarskjold Middle School; New Brunswick Public Schools, McKinley Community School; Middlesex School District, Parker Elementary School; Piscataway School District, Quibbletown Middle School; and Woodbridge Township School District, Woodbridge Middle School.
- **NJ Positive Behavior Supports in Schools - Personnel Participation** — Personnel from the central office or school buildings in the following districts within the New Brunswick region participated in training or webinars on professional development on the implementation of a multitier system of support for social, emotional, and behavioral wellness: Katzenbach School for the Deaf (Mercer), Franklin Township Public Schools (Somerset), Edison Township Public School District (Middlesex), Sayreville School District (Middlesex), and Plainfield Public School District (Union), either asynchronously or synchronously.
- **NJ Positive Behavior Supports in Schools - Community Training and Technical Assistance** — Coaching was provided to school district personnel via email, telephone, and/or video conferences to implement a multitier support system for social, emotional, and behavior wellness in pre-K through 12th grade public school settings. Participating districts/schools in the New Brunswick region included New Brunswick Public Schools, McKinley Elementary School; Franklin Township Public Schools; the Edison Township Public Schools John Adams Middle School, Menlo Park Elementary School, and Benjamin Franklin Elementary School; Dunellen School District, Faber Elementary School; and Piscataway School District, Quibbletown Middle School.
- **NJ State Rehabilitation Council - Service on Committee** — Boggs Center faculty participated in meetings of the New Jersey State Rehabilitation Council and its Transition from School to Work Committee, providing input into policies and practices of DVRS/DOL on improving employment opportunities for people with disabilities, with an emphasis on pre-employment transition services and employment outcomes for youth. The council holds its meetings in New Brunswick and has impact statewide.
- **Transition Coordinators Network of North Jersey - Technical Assistance** — Boggs Center staff participated in Transition Coordinators Network of North Jersey meetings to provide technical assistance and minitrainings on best practice in community-based instruction for all ages, work-based learning, and internships

for youth with disabilities. The network holds three meetings a year and includes educators from Piscataway, New Brunswick, and the surrounding area.

- **Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition - Technical Assistance** — Boggs Center Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST) staff provided in-person and virtual technical assistance on person-centered planning facilitation, as well as classroom and IEP implementation strategies, for North Brunswick and New Brunswick school district personnel.
- **Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition - Technical Assistance** — Boggs Center PCAST staff provided technical assistance to New Brunswick school district personnel on high school transition program design, work-based learning implementation, transition assessments, and curriculum development for transition.
- **Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition - Community Training** — Boggs Center PCAST staff trained New Brunswick school district personnel through “Introduction to Person-Centered Planning” and “Innovation Swap Meet” training events.
- **Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition - Community Training** — New Brunswick and Piscataway school district personnel participated in a workshop on “Culturally Responsive Facilitation in Person-Centered Practices” presented by Boggs Center PCAST staff.
- **Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition - Technical Assistance** — Boggs Center PCAST Staff provided New Brunswick school district personnel with technical assistance in support of classroom implementation in two classes, the expansion of formal plan facilitation, and the mechanism for sharing 8th-grader plans with high school teachers.
- **Community-Based Instruction - Community Training and Technical Assistance** — School personnel from Piscataway, North Brunswick, and New Brunswick school districts participated in a variety of trainings and technical assistance opportunities promoting Community-Based Instruction (CBI) for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, presented by Boggs Center staff. “Job Coaching for Career Exploration in Community Settings,” “Community-Based Instruction for Younger Students,” and “Community-Based Instruction Showcase” trainings were provided to Piscataway, North Brunswick, and New Brunswick school district personnel. Training and technical assistance were provided to school personnel in these districts through virtual “Community of Practice” events around both community-based instruction and person-centered approaches in school and transition.
- **Community-Based Instruction - Technical Assistance** — Boggs Center CBI staff provided New Brunswick school district personnel with technical assistance on Community-Based Instruction and transition programming for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- **NJ Black Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD) Consortium - Service on Committee** — Representatives from The Boggs Center serve on the NJ Black ID/DD Consortium, which guides the development of strategies to access information that maximizes academic, employment, and quality-of-life outcomes for Black NJ residents with ID/DD and their families. The consortium is comprised of members from community groups, disability organizations, and advocacy organizations, school districts (including Piscataway Public Schools), and local advocates.
- **Care Coordination for Adults with ID/DD** — The Boggs Center, in collaboration with the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, supports care coordination at Family Medicine at Monument Square (FMMS) which integrates adults living in community residences and their families in the New Brunswick region into the primary care practice, the main ambulatory training site for the Family Medicine residency.
- **State Plan on Aging** — Through participation in the stakeholders’ meeting for the 2021-2025 State Plan on Aging, Boggs Center faculty identified the needs of people with ID/DD and their family caregivers as they age.

Rutgers Eric B. Chandler Health Center

The Rutgers Eric B. Chandler Health Center (EBCHC) is a Federally Qualified Community Health Center (FQHC) run by Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the Eric B. Chandler Community Board. Operating continuously since 1987, the center provides primary medical care throughout the life cycle, HIV care including counseling and testing, dental services, medication counseling, nutrition counseling, behavioral health counseling, and screening for social determinants of health with referral to community resources. All services are provided regardless of an individual’s ability to pay.

The center serves over 14,000 patients yearly through more than 55,000 encounters. Patients are often financially disadvantaged with a majority having incomes less than the poverty level. Over 70 percent of the patients are best served in a language other than English.

- **Partnerships Linking Patients at Eric B. Chandler Health Center to Community-Based Resources to Improve Overall Health and Wellness** — An ongoing partnership with the New Jersey Association for the Education of Young Children monthly Advisory Board Council assists the patients of the health center with coordinating services related to such education.
 - We partnered with the Coming Home project of Middlesex County by participating in a monthly meeting that included homeless prevention training. This allowed us to provide patients of the health center with connections to community resources, giving them choices and opportunities to pursue healthy lifestyles.

- The EBCHC community health workers completed Mental Health First Aid Training, Community Health Worker Training, and Affordable Care Act training to be able to assist the community with obtaining health care coverage through Get Covered NJ and linkage to community resources identified by completing the PRAPARE screening tool.
 - EBCHC staff participated in a training program offered by Central Jersey Legal Services about human trafficking. The program educated the staff about what human trafficking is, how to identify it, and how to report it. Central Jersey Legal Services also provides free legal help in civil (non-criminal) cases for low-income residents of Mercer, Middlesex, and Union Counties.
- **Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) Continuation of Care Initiative** — This partnership between EBCHC and RWJUH links patients being discharged from the hospital to primary care.
 - **Community Health Navigation Program for RWJMS First-Year Medical Students** — Eric B. Chandler Health Center participates in the Community Health Navigation program that offers RWJMS first-year medical students the opportunity to shadow both medical providers and community health workers to orient medical doctors about how social determinants of health affect health outcomes.
 - **Providing Vaccinations to the Community**
During FY2021 and 2022, EBCHC partnered with other Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) units to administer COVID vaccinations to the community. The partners included Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC), nurses from Rutgers Health, and a newly formed student organization, the RWJMS Student Vaccine Corps. Initially, the groups focused on first responders, then the most vulnerable in the community, and when permissible, made vaccinations available to the entire community. Collectively, the partnership administered over 22,000 COVID vaccinations. EBCHC also administered over 1,000 monkeypox vaccinations during FY2021 and 2022.
 - **Testing and Information for the Community**
 - During COVID vaccination clinics, Eric B. Chandler Health Center distributed several thousand COVID rapid tests to vaccine recipients.
 - At the New Brunswick Library Health Fair, EBCHC provided tabling, outreach, and education.
 - At an all-day National HIV Testing Day Event, EBCHC collaborated with the RWJ-AIDS Program to host HIV testing at the New Brunswick Public Library.
 - On National Health Center Day, EBCHC hosted an HIV testing event.

- For the Senior Health and Fitness Walk, sponsored by the Middlesex Office of Aging and Disabled, medical and behavioral health staff at EBCHC provided tabling, outreach, and education.
- For the Latinx HIV Awareness Testing Event, we collaborated with the RWJ-AIDS Program to host HIV testing at the New Brunswick Public Library.
- During the LGBTQ+ & Aging Event, sponsored by the Middlesex Office of Aging and Disabled, we participated in a virtual presentation about Infectious Disease Department services.
- For the World AIDS Day Testing Event, we collaborated with the RWJ-AIDS Program to host HIV testing at the New Brunswick Public Library.
- At the World AIDS Day Event, we provided tabling, outreach, and education at their health fair, including presentations by one of Chandler’s physicians and its executive director.

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS)

➤ Office of Community Health

RWJMS Office of Community Health Community Partnerships – Community and Global Health are a core mission of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and our school partners with over 50 organizations throughout New Brunswick and Piscataway, Middlesex County, and the state, including the following:

- Agape Transitional Houses
- Aldersgate Food Pantry
- American Red Cross of Central New Jersey
- ARC of Somerset County
- AristaCare at CedarOaks
- Archangel Raphael’s Mission
- Asian Food Market of Piscataway
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Coastal and Northern NJ
- Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
- Chance II Permanent Housing
- City of New Brunswick, Department of Human and Community Services
- Civic League of Greater New Brunswick
- Coming Home of Middlesex County
- Community Affairs & Resource Center of New Jersey
- Community Food Bank of New Jersey
- East Brunswick Public Library
- Edison Job Corp
- Elijah’s Promise Community Soup Kitchen

- Empower Somerset
- Eric B. Chandler Health Center
- First Baptist Church, Somerset
- Fisherman's Mark
- Franklin Food Bank
- Franklin Middle School
- Franklin High School
- Girls on the Run Central New Jersey
- Global Grace Health Be the Change
- Good News Home for Women
- Greater Brunswick Charter School
- Hackensack Meridian Health System
- Harmony Family Success Center
- Healthier Middlesex
- Interfaith-RISE
- John P. Fricano Towers, New Brunswick
- Keep Middlesex Moving
- Kilmer Homes
- Lazos America Unida
- Martin Gerber Apartments, North Brunswick
- Metuchen SportsPlex
- Middlesex College, New Brunswick Center
- Middlesex County Center for Empowerment
- Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center
- Middlesex County Department of Health Services
- Middlesex County Empowering Seniors Fall Prevention Network
- Middlesex County Office of Aging
- Mobile Family Success Center
- NAACP New Brunswick Branch
- Naomi's Way Housing
- NAMI-NJ
- New Brunswick Domestic Violence Awareness Coalition
- New Brunswick Free Public Library
- New Brunswick Police Department
- New Brunswick Public Schools
- New Brunswick Recreation Department
- New Brunswick Tomorrow
- New Hope Foundation (Open Doors)
- New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids/New Jersey YMCA State Alliance
- Ozanam Family Shelter, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen
- Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
- Parker at Stonegate
- Piscataway High School
- Piscataway Regional Day School
- PRAB
- Pride Center of New Jersey

- Quail Brook Senior Center
 - Raritan Bay YMCA
 - Raritan Valley YMCA
 - Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) AIDS Program
 - RWJUH Community Health Promotions
 - RWJUH Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
 - RWJUH Trauma & Injury Prevention/Injury Prevention Program/Safe Kids Middlesex County
 - Sai Datta Peetham & Cultural Center, Sri Shiva Vishnu Temple NJ
 - Saint Peter's University Hospital
 - Simuel Whitfield Simmons Organization
 - State Street Housing
 - St. Paul the Apostle Senior Housing
 - The Center for Great Expectations
 - Town Clock Community Development Corp
 - United Methodist Church at New Brunswick
 - Unity Square, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen
 - Youth Advocacy Program (YAP)
 - Wellspring Center for Prevention
 - Women Aware
- (This list is not comprehensive.)

➤ **Homeless and Indigent Population Health Outreach Project (HIPHOP)**, sponsored by the Office of Community Health, is a student-run community service initiative supervised by faculty and staff. HIPHOP is an umbrella program with three major initiatives: the Community Health Initiative, Promise Clinic, and Asylum Clinic.

- **HIPHOP Community Health Initiative (HIPHOP-CHI)** is a community service program student-run through collaborative community partnerships and supervised by RWJMS faculty and staff that provides students with the opportunity to take part in service-learning activities and get involved with Greater New Brunswick communities.
- **HIPHOP-CHI Integrative Curriculum Components** are required for all first-year medical students and are comprised of three programs: Transition of Care (TOC), Community Health Navigation (CHN), and Community Health Education Collaboration (CHEC). TOC and CHN are clinical components in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) and Eric B. Chandler Health Center (EBCHC), and CHEC is an educational collaborative program partnering with 8-10 community-based organizations in the Greater New Brunswick area.

- **HIPHOP-CHI Project Outreach** provides various outreach opportunities, long- and short-term, for RBHS health profession students, faculty, and staff throughout the Greater New Brunswick Area.
 - **HIPHOP-CHI Fundraising Drives** provide opportunities for RBHS students, faculty, and staff to participate in programs such as the HIPHOP Annual 5K Run and donation campaigns for clothing, toiletries, and school supplies to meet ongoing community needs.
 - **HIPHOP-CHI Non-Credit Electives** provide opportunities to RBHS students to support, advocate, and educate participating community members. Some examples are the Patients At/In Risk (PAIR) elective where RBHS students interact with community members to provide health literacy workshops and Students Teaching AIDS To Students (STATS) where RBHS students provide HIV/AIDS workshops at various public high schools.
 - **HIPHOP-CHI Garden Project** was started in FY2022 and is currently a RBHS-IDEA Innovation grant-funded program. Medical students, faculty, and staff provide several focused indoor and outdoor gardening educational interactive sessions in partnership with Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen Ozanam Family Shelter.
 - **HIPHOP Asylum Clinic** is a student-run, faculty- and staff-supervised clinic. RBHS volunteer health care providers and students conduct forensic medical and psychiatric evaluations for persecuted individuals. This service is provided to victims of torture from countries across the globe who are seeking asylum on multiple grounds, including persecution due to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and political affiliation.
 - **HIPHOP Promise Clinic** is a student-run, faculty- and staff-supervised clinic that serves uninsured patrons of Elijah's Promise Community Soup Kitchen and is hosted at the Eric B. Chandler Health Center. Most clinic services are free, including medication, labs, and interpreting services; while specialty care requires a small fee. Complimentary services such as Veggie Rx provide vouchers to patients for free vegetables. Promise Clinic also provides interprofessional training opportunities to pharmacy and social work students.
- **Community Interpreter Project** is a service-learning program that enables undergraduate students who are bilingual in English/Spanish to serve as paraprofessional interpreters in a primary care setting at Eric B. Chandler Health Center. Through their experience in the program, students have the opportunity to improve their Spanish language skills, interpreting, and translation skills and knowledge of medical terminology in two languages.
 - **Healthier New Brunswick's** mission is to improve the health and health care of New Brunswick residents through community-based partnerships. Healthier New Brunswick (HNB) is a collaborative effort between New Brunswick Tomorrow

(convener of the Health Task Force), Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School's (RWJMS) Office of Community Health (convener of the Alliance for a Healthier New Brunswick), Johnson & Johnson, and the City of New Brunswick. HNB is comprised of approximately 50 individuals and organizations within the city, including residents; local hospital systems; businesses; local and regional governments; faith-based networks; and community-based, academic, educational, service, and health organizations. HNB's stakeholder partners are convened by New Brunswick Tomorrow's Health Task Force and RWJMS' Alliance for a Healthier New Brunswick. Additional support is provided by Johnson & Johnson and the City of New Brunswick. The Health Task Force engages diverse community stakeholders to identify, analyze, and develop solutions to complex health issues facing residents. RWJMS faculty and staff are active participants in the Health Task Force.

- **Healthier New Brunswick COVID-19 Initiative:** From April 2020 to September 2021, RWJMS' Office of Community Health and New Brunswick Tomorrow, a local community-based organization, co-hosted weekly and biweekly virtual drop-in meetings for the Healthier New Brunswick initiative and its community stakeholder partners. During these meetings, 20-35 partners discussed community needs and resources to address those needs. The group worked together to create needed resources including community-based COVID testing and vaccinations, written materials about appropriate use of telehealth, and COVID prevention strategies. Collectively, Healthier New Brunswick stakeholders advocated for multiple COVID testing and vaccination sites in New Brunswick; supported an increase in hygiene resources (mask and hygiene product distribution, a downtown handwashing station, and a shower space); developed handouts on telemedicine and contact tracing; increased food delivery to vulnerable residents (low-income and seniors); developed, hosted, and promoted educational awareness around COVID; and assisted with obtaining financial resources for housing.
- **Alliance for a Healthier New Brunswick**, supported and convened by RWJMS' Office of Community Health, is a collective effort designed to strengthen existing health services and systems and to develop new community health strategies supporting the Healthier New Brunswick initiative. The Alliance convenes approximately 20-25 community partner organizations to address identified behavioral health and active living needs of New Brunswick residents. The alliance has co-created an online *Behavioral Health Referral and Resource Guide: Greater New Brunswick and Middlesex County* (in English and Spanish, available at rwjms.rutgers.edu/behavioralhealthguidesearch) and is currently collaborating to create a social prescribing program to encourage people to spend more time in urban parks and green spaces.
- **Distinction in Service to the Community (DISC)** supports and recognizes RWJMS students who have shown exceptional interest and leadership in and commitment to volunteering in the community and working with underserved populations. Students distinguish themselves by assuming a significant level of responsibility

in the collaborative planning, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of a focused, sustainable community health initiative. Approximately 50 DISC students work each year in 20 greater New Brunswick community-based agencies.

- **Equity in Action Summer Internship Program** is sponsored by the RBHS Office of Interprofessional Programs. A RWJMS faculty member co-directs this six-week interprofessional service-learning program which focuses on social determinants of health with a social justice lens, e.g., racial equity and environmental justice. Students work in interprofessional teams and are placed at one of our participating community sites in the greater Newark or Central New Jersey areas where they co-create a program with the guidance of a community site preceptor and EASI co-directors.
- **Healthier Middlesex's Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP):** RWJMS personnel participate in the CHNA and CHIP efforts, co-sponsored by Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Saint Peter's University Hospital, having served on the CHNA Advisory Committee and now serving as co-chairs and members of the mental health and substance use and access to care CHIP subcommittees.
- **Middlesex County Empowering Seniors Fall Prevention Network (MC ESFPN):** RWJMS faculty and staff were founding members of the MC ESFPN and are certified Matter of Balance coaches training older adults in the county using the evidence-based Matter of Balance fall prevention training program. In addition, RWJMS staff are working with medical students to provide home safety assessments for older adults to better understand fall hazards in the home.
- **Middlesex County Office of Health Services, Middlesex County Center for Empowerment: Sexual Violence Counseling, Advocacy, and Prevention Education - Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition (SVPC):** RBHS staff and students attend meetings and participate in and implement programming for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The HIPHOP program director co-chairs the SVPC.
- **New Brunswick Domestic Violence Awareness Coalition (NBDVAC),** operates under the direction of the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Community Health Promotion Program (RWJUH-CHPP). RBHS faculty and staff are active coalition members. RWJMS students and staff provide activities at the annual NBDVAC Rally/March such as stuffed animal check-ups—mock physicals on stuffed animals to promote pediatric physical exams—and face painting. RWJMS staff and students also coordinate a domestic violence awareness lecture that includes a community-based panel, resources, and displays.
- **Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes),** hosted by the RWJMS Office of Community Health, is an evidence-based, peer-led continuing education program at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Rutgers Project ECHO addresses the population health challenges facing New Jerseyans today, including maternal health, diabetes management, mental health, and access

to care. The ECHO approach builds provider knowledge and capacity to provide culturally responsive care and to improve the lives of people in their communities. ECHO's "all teach, all learn" approach is at the forefront of continuing medical education and aims to optimize care management. Through regularly scheduled virtual sessions, Project ECHO provides space for participants to interact with state and national experts where together they learn and collaborate to improve health outcomes.

➤ **ECHO Areas of Focus:**

- Project ECHO is funded by public and private organizations that identify specific community needs and areas addressable through education, training, certification programs, or assistance in implementing system or practice interventions.
- Programs include Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Antivirals and Long COVID, Training Community Health Workers, Managing Complex Endocrinology Conditions, COVID-19 Resources for Nursing Homes and Community Health Workers, Diabetes-Related Chronic Kidney Disease, Hepatitis C Virus, Health Equity & Social Justice, Hispanic Health, Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities, Maternal Child Health & Opioid Use Disorder, Maternal Health Innovation, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: Alternative Therapies and Birthing Hospital Care, Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network, Overcoming Barriers to Vaccinations through Community Action, Post-Partum Warning Signs, Project Firstline: Providing Infection Control Education for Front Line Healthcare Workers and Infection Preventionists, Skilled Nursing and Long-Term Care Facilities: Infection Prevention & Control, and Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health.

➤ **Project ECHO-Learners and Leaders Ensuring Health Equity**

- From January 2020 to November 2023, Rutgers Project ECHO delivered 725 ECHO sessions. During this period, 3,900 unique participants joined ECHO programs, representing 1,200 NJ organizations. Of these participants, 38% are health care providers and 62% are comprised of community health workers, educators, other health care professionals, public health staff, and social workers.
- Project ECHO collaborates with partner organizations from every county in the state and two out of three registrants serve communities with the highest poverty rate, including New Brunswick and surrounding areas.

➤ **Project ECHO-Leadership Community**

- Project ECHO is made possible by a group of leading organizations that understand system-level change requires vision, commitment, and resources.

- Key organizations supporting ECHO programs in the New Brunswick area include Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Central Jersey Family Health Consortium, ECHO Diabetes Action Network, Health Resources and Services Administration, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, New Jersey Department of Health, Communicable Disease Service, New Jersey Department of Health, Division of Family Health Services, New Jersey Department of Human Services, New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Collaborative, New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Northern New Jersey Medication-Assisted Treatment Center of Excellence, Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Medicine, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Office of Community Health, RWJBarnabas Health, Women’s Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, The Nicholson Foundation, United Healthcare, and the WITH Foundation.

➤ **Global Health**

The RWJMS Office of Global Health continued to provide advice and supervision to RWJMS medical students, who work on projects for their distinctions, including ten Chancellor’s Global Health Scholars (Class of 2021-2024), five Distinction in Global Health project, one Distinction In Service to the Community team project, and one independent project. Some global health projects evolved into “Glocal” (“global + local”) programs with local presentations. The office also supervised seven IRB-approved projects with RWJMS medical students; and produced two national publications and two regional presentations.

➤ **Office of Education**

RWJMS is dedicated to excellence in medical education and to developing ethical and culturally competent physicians. Learners are encouraged toward a lifelong commitment to learning and professional growth. The Medical Education Program aspires to be a nationally recognized medical education program that prepares medical learners to become resilient and adaptable physicians who provide high-value, ethical, and appropriate health care in an ever-changing system; communicate respectfully and effectively in a patient- and family-centered fashion; collaborate with other health care professionals to devise treatment plans and strategies for adherence and self-care, tailored to the needs and preferences of the patient; integrate the scientific underpinnings of clinical medicine and best evidence into daily practice; and distinguish themselves as medical professionals in discovery, service, and leadership. The Medical Education Program further strives to prepare educational leaders to teach, mentor, and disseminate educational innovation, discovery, and methodology.

- **Transitions of Care - HIPHOP Longitudinal Selective for M1 Physicianship Students** — Students worked with a hospitalized patient at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) to help them transition

back to their physician at Eric B. Chandler Health Center (EBCHC). Students assisted the patient by asking them about their social determinants of health (SDOH), connecting them with the necessary resources, scheduling their follow-up appointment at EBCHC, and following up with them after they were discharged from the hospital to help ensure smooth transition back to outpatient care. One hundred and one students participated in this activity.

- **Community Health Navigation - HIPHOP Longitudinal Selective for M1 Physicianship Students** — Students shadowed a physician and community health worker in the outpatient setting at EBCHC. Students screened an identified patient for SDOH, attended their office visit with them, then assisted in connecting the patient with the necessary community resources. Students followed up with their patient via phone to determine if they were able to receive the needed resources. Some students also accompanied their patients on follow-up visits to EBCHC. Twenty-six students participated in this activity.
- **Community Health Education Collaboration (CHEC) - Part of M1 Physicianship Course** — The M1 class was divided into 16 small groups, each assigned to a community-based organization to learn from and support during their M1 year. In response to requests from the organizations, the groups gave health workshops, put together patient education pamphlets, etc. In this manner, 16 such projects were completed by April 2022.
- **Caring Companions Program** — Medical students were paired with an elderly patient, the student calling their patient once a month to provide companionship and support, which were particularly important during the isolating time of the pandemic. In FY2021, this was a club consisting of M1 and M2 students that was developed through the Internal Medicine/Geriatrics Department. In FY2022, this became a formal part of the Physicianship I course with 20 first-year medical students taking part in this program as their longitudinal service activity during the year.
- **New Jersey Reentry Corporation** — NJ Reentry is a non-profit agency to help remove barriers to employment for citizens returning from jail or prison. Third-year medical students partnered with pharmacy students to deliver health workshops for these clients once a week. This program started in 2019, but medical students were not involved for about two years (March 2020–December 2021) due to the pandemic. Students became involved again in January 2022 and continue to provide weekly health workshops.

➤ **Child Health Institute of New Jersey (CHINJ)**

- **Horizon Rutgers Culture of Health Program** — In collaboration with the New Jersey Healthy Kids Initiative (NJHKI) of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health (IFNH) and the Department of Family and Community Health Sciences (SEBS), and funded by the Horizon Foundation and the Robert

Wood Johnson Foundation, CHINJ has provided support for this program, which has developed and presented culinary literacy, nutrition, and healthy fitness curricula in dozens of elementary and middle school classrooms across NJ. These include the Greater Brunswick Charter School and New Brunswick Public Schools, as well as schools in Paterson, Edison, and other NJ communities, all as part of an effort to increase healthy eating and decrease childhood obesity. NJHKI staff also trained teachers in these schools to carry the program forward to future classes.

- **Reach Out and Read** – The CHINJ has collaborated with Drs. Ramachandran and Jimenez (Pediatrics and Family Medicine) in their work at the Eric B. Chandler Health Center to promote literacy through the Reach Out and Read Program, particularly in bilingual and Spanish-speaking families, and in the development of a new offshoot program focusing on math skills. CHINJ helped in the development and funding of research projects related to these important activities for the benefit of young and early school-age children.

Emergency Medicine

- **Public Health Course at New Brunswick Health Sciences Technology High School** – This project is an academic-community partnership between Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS) Department of Emergency Medicine and New Brunswick Health Sciences Technology High School (NBHSTHS) to create a hands-on in-school class where students learn about public health and act as citizen scientists to engage family and community members on health needs and barriers. Since January 2022, 52 high school students have participated in three cohorts of the class. The first cohort of 26 students completed 201 community health assessments with New Brunswick (NB) adults, of which 21% (43) were completed in Spanish, and completed 52 qualitative interviews with NB adults. The second class of 14 students focused on diabetes and organized and carried out a community health fair at the school. The 12 students in the third cohort learned about hypertension, created videos in English and Spanish to convey to the community how to control blood pressure, and screened and educated 65 adults at home about high blood pressure and how to control it. Findings from these projects can inform future health interventions for the New Brunswick community while engaging youth to drive their own inquisition about their community's health.

Family Medicine and Community Health

- **Primary Care for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)** – Hosted at Rutgers Health Family Medicine at Monument Square in New Brunswick, this program uses a medical team model of care for adults with I/DD, providing care to 300 patients per year.

- **RWJMS Family Medicine Residency** — Residents are involved in multiple community services:
 - Junior Preceptors at Promise Clinic, approximately 50 weeks per year
 - CEED cervical cancer screening program, twice yearly
 - Caring for Adults with Developmental Disabilities in FMMS, approximately 75 patients seen multiple times a year
 - Patient care at Parker Nursing Home, approximately 30 patients total
 - Involvement in our Social Justice seminar series, approximately six sessions per year learning from community resources how to provide equitable health care
 - Community Talks to the Senior Citizen Center, approximately five times per year
 - COVID-19 vaccine clinic through HIPHOP
 - Sports physicals for the NJ Special Olympics, one to two times per year
 - Providing gender-affirming therapy for 50 or more patients at FMMS
- **RWJMS Family Medicine Residency CEED Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Program** — This program has been providing free breast and cervical cancer screening to uninsured women in our community for the past eight years. These screening events are held at Family Medicine at Monument Square in New Brunswick three times per year in coordination with the Middlesex County Health Department and the RWJUH Community Outreach Department. Our family medicine faculty and resident volunteers supervise senior medical student volunteers performing these exams, providing an essential service to the underserved in our community and an invaluable hands-on clinical learning experience for our medical students.
- **Family Medicine Clerkship Service-Learning Program** — All third-year medical students (approximately 160 annually) are assigned to a community agency to provide service while learning about the specific population and about the community's resources. Students may provide health education, conduct screenings, or provide other services. Each student generally spends three half-days with the community agency over their six-week clerkship block and write a reflection following the experience. This activity was put on hold for 2020 through 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Monument Square Integrated Behavioral Health Team** provides free, on-site behavioral health services to the patients of Monument Square. The team provides brief psychotherapy (three to six months), carrying a panel of approximately 100-120 patients at any one time. Over the course of one fiscal year, we provide treatment to upwards of 300 patients. The team also provides on-site referral and consultation assistance to the physicians in the practice.

- **NJ ACTS Community Engaged Scholarship Symposium: Best Practices to Achieve Health Equity** — On June 14, 2022, this NJ ACTS-sponsored event showcased cutting-edge scholarship focused on addressing health equity, both nationally and across our campuses, and provided a forum for scholars to network across disciplines and campuses at Rutgers University.
- **New Jersey Healthcare Essential Worker Outreach and Education Study - Testing Overlooked Occupations (NJ HEROES TOO) Partnership Celebration** — On April 22, 2022, this celebratory event marked the culmination of the NJH2 study, showcasing its success in generating extensive COVID-19 data, extracting insights on testing and vaccine attitudes, and enhancing awareness in underserved communities, fostering a model-community partnership in scholarship and research.
- **NJ ACTS Community Engagement Salons** — The NJ ACTS Community Engagement Core (CEC) Virtual Community Engagement Salons bring researchers together with patients, community members, and health care stakeholders to actively participate in cross-talk, incubating ideas for engagement in the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) process from the planning stage through implementation and dissemination. Since 2020, the CEC has facilitated over 20 virtual salons.
- **NJ ACTS Community Engagement Core (CEC) Consultations** — The CEC helps researchers obtain project-specific input from research, community, and patient stakeholders to enhance research design, implementation, and dissemination. Since 2019, the CEC has completed over 350 consultations.
- **NJ ACTS Community Engagement Core (CEC) Network Referrals** — The CEC can connect you to experts through our Network of Networks. We help build and sustain long-lasting relationships. Since 2020, the core has completed over 30 referrals.
- **NJ ACTS Community Engagement Core Partnership and Innovation Accelerator Pilot Program** is designed to facilitate collaboration with local organizations on health research that benefits our communities. Since 2019, the CEC has awarded \$140,00 in pilot grants.
- **New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus Foundation: Health Equity Diversity Leadership Impact Series** — The New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus Foundation is a non-profit corporation created for the purpose of promoting public policy by encouraging the interaction of the community with legislators and members of government at all levels. A NJ ACTS faculty member participated in coordinating the series and on June 21, 2022, another NJ ACTS faculty member participated in the panel on vaccine hesitancy.
- **NJ ACTS Special Populations Core 2022 Seminar Series** was a discussion on ways to create stakeholder advisory boards, develop community outreach efforts, and disseminate information to constituents.

- **Community Engaged Scholarship Panel** — The RWJMS Issues in Cultural Competency and the Underserved Credit Elective (ICCUCE) and Students Interested in Restoring Community Health (SIRCH) meeting took place on January 14, 2022.
- **Workshop on Institutional Barriers and Incentives for Engaged Research** — Board on Science Education Standing Committee on Advancing Science Communication and National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine met on November 12, 2021.
- **Science to the Sidewalk** — Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey created this video series in collaboration with RWJBarnabas Health. This campaign helped disseminate research information to the community. One video featuring a NJ ACTS faculty member’s research on cancer disparities, survivorship, and health communication was released on July 19, 2021.
- **Social Determinants of Health and Anomalous Dementia Classification in NHATS Data** — This presentation to USC Interdisciplinary Aging Research in November of 2021 addressed health disparities in Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias.
- **Social Determinants of Hospice Outcomes** — This presentation to the Visiting Nurse Service of New York in July 2021 addressed the role of race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status in hospice outcomes.
- **Understanding Regional Differences in Multistakeholder Experiences with the Use of Evidence-Based Strategies for HPV Vaccination in Safety Net Settings** — This presentation was given at the Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health, December 2021.
- **Community-Engaged fRAP: A Mixed-Methods Approach for Policy Change and Advocacy to Reduce Cancer Disparities in Hispanic Women** — This presentation involving focused Rapid Assessment Process (fRAP) was given to the North American Primary Care Research Group in November of 2021.
- **RBHS Integrated Care Curriculum** — RWJMS Department of Family Medicine and Community Health faculty and staff were involved in a four-year (2019-2023) collaborative initiative to develop an introductory integrated care curriculum. Funded by the Nicholson Foundation, this effort was spearheaded by Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care along with seven other Rutgers schools in the health science fields including Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Rutgers School of Dental Medicine, Rutgers School of Health Professions, Rutgers School of Nursing, and Rutgers School of Social Work. The curriculum was designed for implementation across all participating schools as part of a unified mission to expose students to this care delivery paradigm as well as the knowledge and competencies needed to deliver team-based care.

- **Student Vaccine Corp (SVC)** — Family Medicine clinicians supervised 68 well-trained, organized student volunteers. Starting on January 9, 2021, the SVC provided COVID-19 vaccination services to all RWJMS students and faculty so students could return to clinical rotations and classrooms. They also created three student electives (one each for vaccinators, volunteers, and administrators) to provide service-learning opportunities for medical students. The SVC further assists with annual flu vaccinations in the community and at the E. B. Chandler Health Center.
- **Flu Vaccine Clinics** — Family Medicine clinicians and the Student Vaccine Corp provided pediatric and adult flu vaccines at multiple New Brunswick community-based sites including Redshaw School, First Baptist Church, Greater New Brunswick Charter School, and Elijah’s Promise Soup Kitchen.
- **See, Test & Treat Project** — Backed by a grant from the Association of Pathology, the RWJUH Foundation; in collaboration with volunteer faculty, residents, students, and nurses of gynecology, family medicine, and pathology; provided PAP smears and mammograms to uninsured women. Cytopathologists and radiologists read the results on the same day and provided this information to patients.
- **RWJBH Chinese Medical Program** — Dr. Karen Lin is physician advisor of the program, offering patient navigation and regular webinars to the local community. Subjects covered in FY2021 and FY2022 include COVID-19, diabetes, artificial intelligence and new technologies for heart disease screening, stroke, breast cancer, Alzheimer’s, and resources available on minority aging research.
- **Free Health Screenings** — Rutgers Health Family Medicine, RWJBH Chinese Medical Program, and Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey provided screenings for cancer (skin, prostate, lungs, colon), diabetes, and cholesterol as well as health information at multiple sites in New Brunswick, North Brunswick, and Piscataway. Sites included John P. Fricano Towers, Martin Gerber Apartments, and the Asian Food Market in Piscataway.
- **HIPHOP Promise Clinic Electives** — Family Medicine faculty clinicians continued to provide supervision for HIPHOP Promise Clinic electives during the COVID-19 pandemic. These included supervising 14 students in FY2021 and 20 students in FY2022 participating in the Promise Clinic administrative elective; 29 third-year student doctors in FY2021 and 35 third-year student doctors in FY2022 for the Promise Clinic Continuity III, each with four patient visits; and 28 fourth-year student doctors in FY2021 and 34 fourth-year student doctors in FY2022 for the Promise Clinic Continuity IV, each with three visits.
- **RWJUH Community Health Promotion Program** — Dr. Karen WeiRu Lin is physician advisor for and coordinates with family medicine residents to provide regular webinars to senior citizens of Middlesex County and beyond. During FY2021 and FY2022, family medicine residents provided 27 presentations on subjects including reliability of online health information, fatigue, protecting eyesight, nutrition (sugar, salt, protein, etc.), tinnitus, memory loss, vertigo, COVID-19

testing and vaccine updates, sleep, inflammation, feet, skin, digestive problems, bone health, orthostatic hypotension, restless legs syndrome, integrative health, back pain, heart health, nails, age-related hearing loss, managing in hot weather, and posture.

- **Middlesex County Public Health – Cancer Education and Early Detection** provided free PAP smears for HPV screening, mammograms, and colposcopies. Family medicine faculty supervised the women’s health fellow, family medicine residents, and medical student volunteers. Clinics were held at Rutgers Health Family Medicine and Community Health office in downtown New Brunswick. There were 30-35 registrations per event and at least 20-25 patients showed up and received services on the five dates and times.
- **RWJUH Proud Center** provided primary and hormonal care for LGBTQIA+ patients.

Medicine

- **Rutgers Tobacco Dependence Program** offers treatment services, educational training, research activities, and outreach and advocacy to the citizens of central NJ and beyond to reduce death and disease caused by tobacco use. We do this through evidence-based methods. Rutgers TDP has been serving the NJ community since 2000 and we have treated over 8,000 new individuals and trained over 7,000 health care professionals. We treat approximately 200 new clients and offer over 1,200 clinical encounters per year. Our treatment services are currently free of charge.
- **Your Health Kiosk** aims to improve the wellness of the community through health access, addressing social risk factors, recruiting more underrepresented populations into research, and developing mentor/mentee relationships via a text-based digital platform that allows them to connect from anywhere via phone. Our mission is to use technology to reduce health inequity within our community. Your Health Kiosk provides tailored messaging regarding relevant local health care and social services. Our community health care workers and navigators guide users through the process of utilizing the services. The chat platform allows for real-time access to navigators, social workers, mentors, and researchers. We were founded at the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick and are now expanding to Perth Amboy and Franklin Township. Our endeavor is being funded by the NJDOH and is supported with a partnership with GoMo Health. We have served more than 600 individuals and attended 57 community events. Through this platform we have identified that 78% of users have no primary care physician, 98% need cancer screening, and more than 50% have social risk factors that need to be addressed. To date, we have navigated more than one-third of these individuals to the resources they need. The platform is free, transcends health care systems, does not require individuals to have insurance, and enrolls them from the community where they live. Most are undocumented, female, and English is not their native language.

- **Post-COVID Recovery Program** — The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a tremendous impact on many patients’ physical and emotional health. While many people recover from COVID-19 completely, there is a population of survivors who suffer long-term effects of the virus. These individuals are sometimes called “long-haulers.” Their lasting symptoms interfere with their ability to return to their prior life and activities. To help people manage what has been called “post-COVID syndrome” or “long COVID,” Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School have created this Post-COVID Recovery Program. We have seen 650 patients and conducted 10 focus groups and three educational programs. We are part of the recovery trial supported by Duke University and are actively enrolling for intervention and observational studies.
- **Rutgers American Preventive Screening and Education Association (APSEA)** is an organization focused on reducing the prevalence of uncontrolled, untreated, and undiagnosed hypertension and diabetes in the local community. From 2020-2023, APSEA trained nearly 500 Rutgers, NJIT, and TCNJ undergraduates, and 280 NJMS, RWJMS, and Rowan SOM medical students. Among a sample of 128 Rutgers undergraduate students trained in 2021-2022, 104 (81%) passed assessments, and 58 (45%) attended at least one community health screening. Among 29 students with complete data on pre- and post-training questionnaires, confidence in taking blood pressures and knowledge about hypertension significantly increased. Regarding health screening, from 2017-2023, certified students contributed more than 3,100 volunteer hours and screened nearly 7,000 participants at 360 health screenings across 56 community locations. These locations included farmer’s markets, places of worship, public libraries, senior centers, collaborative events with local hospitals, festivals, and apartment complexes, among others.

Neurology

- **Information and Referral Center funded by the American Parkinson Disease Association** supports people with Parkinson’s disease, their families, and caregivers. We offer educational programs about various aspects of the disease and its treatment, organize support groups, various exercise programs, art therapy, etc. We have a full-time, dedicated coordinator for this center. More information can be found at: www.apdaparkinson.org/community/new-jersey/.
- **Strides for Stroke** is a collaborative program across Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health where each hospital puts together a team to engage in a 30-minute walk around their hospital campus to raise awareness for stroke prevention and stroke identification.
- **For Your Health: Virtual Stroke Educational Series** — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick collaborated with the Community Health Department to put together a series of three virtual lectures for Stroke Month. Invited speakers included pharmacists, pulmonologists, and stroke advanced practice nurses, with over 100 attendees.

- **True Life After Stroke Support Group** is a monthly virtual support group for stroke survivors and their caregivers hosted by the Comprehensive Stroke Center in New Brunswick. Guest speakers are invited to provide education, social and interactive activities related to the stroke recovery journey. There have been 24 interactions and over 70 clients served.
- **New Jersey Brain Aneurysm and AVM Support Group** invites brain aneurysm patients and their families to meet virtually with their peers every other month, hosted by the Comprehensive Stroke Center in New Brunswick.
- **Virtual Community Stroke Education: Let's Learn About Stroke Together** is a collaborative program with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Community Health providing a virtual lecture on signs/symptoms of stroke and stroke prevention.
- **Neuromuscular and ALS Center of New Jersey** — This multidisciplinary clinic is a joint effort between Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health. Persons with ALS come to the clinic to be seen quarterly by the physician, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, dietitian, social worker, and pulmonologist (offsite) for advice on managing their symptoms and disease. (Quarterly visits are an average, depending on how rapidly symptoms are changing.) Persons with ALS and subtypes—ALS, PLS, PMA, progressive bulbar palsy, and brachial amyotrophic diplegia—are all welcome to be seen by this team.
- **Virtual support groups for persons with ALS and their caregivers** — In conjunction with the ALS Association Greater New York Chapter (now known as ALS United Greater New York), virtual support groups are run by a nurse and social worker. Some are educational in nature and at least half of them are open discussion groups. We offer these twice monthly.
- **Educational and Resource Summit** — We have collaborated with ALS Association Greater New York Chapter (now known as ALS United Greater New York) in presenting a two- to three-day virtual educational forum, open to patients and family members and covering a variety of topics. This educational and resource summit is presented each spring, with participation by the RWJMS clinic nurse and select members from our multidisciplinary team.
- **SURP (Summer Undergraduate Research Program in Neuroscience)** is an NIH/Neuroscience Department-funded initiative in which we bring college students into neuroscience laboratories for 10 weeks to conduct research. It also includes an introduction to multiple neuroscience-related careers. The program is quite competitive as we only take 12 students from among the hundreds who apply. Generally, it is a resident program in which students are housed in Rutgers dorms. It was run remotely in summer 2020 and as a remote/in-person hybrid in summer 2021. It has served as a recruitment tool as graduates of the program have applied to the medical school and graduate school.

- **Rutgers Day: Brain Matters** — Our neuroscience department runs a booth called “Brain Matters” at Rutgers Day where faculty present a collection of exhibits that relate to the brain. It’s a great success that attracts community members of all ages, undoubtedly serving as a recruitment tool.

Obstetrics and Gynecology

- **Obstetrics and Gynecology Resident Continuity Clinic at Eric B. Chandler Health Center** — The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology has developed a program where the residency designates Eric B. Chandler Health Center as the primary site for continuity ambulatory care in obstetrics and gynecology for the residency program. The residents staff nine sessions at the health center and provide routine prenatal care, general gynecologic care, advanced gynecologic procedures (colposcopy, complex family planning, long-acting reversible contraceptive insertion and removal), and the work-up and eventual surgery for benign gynecologic disease (advanced laparoscopy, advanced hysteroscopy, and advanced open surgery). This was all overseen by a member of the obstetrics and gynecology Rutgers faculty, with approximately 12-15 patients seen per session (24-30 patients per day).

Pediatrics

- **South Asian Total Health Initiative: Diabetes Prevention Education** culturally adapted the CDC diabetes prevention curriculum for community education to South Asian community members with their input. This curriculum—which reached approximately 100 community members—is being submitted to the CDC.
- **South Asian Total Health Initiative: Mental Health Outreach for South Asian Teens and Parents** was a needs assessment project involving focus groups and interviews of community stakeholders. The program was developed in collaboration with and with input from community members, specifically parents of teens and teens themselves. We reached a total of 80 participants.
- **South Asian Total Health Initiative: Health Fair Participation** — We joined India Health Camps of NJ to provide health education and screenings, reaching around 80 people of South Asian origin.
- **Pediatric Clinical Research Center** is a community outreach to enhance Latino member participation in RECOVER, an NIH-funded long COVID study in children and adults. We collaborated with several community partners in the New Brunswick area and quadrupled participation of Latino children and families in this observational study, enrolling over 100 Latino children. Study enrollment continued in FY2023, reaching over 300 Latino families.
- **Educational Workshops for the Greater New Brunswick/NJ Community** — Locally and across the state, a pediatric faculty clinician provided workshops on health equity, social determinants of health impacts on BIPOC communities, vaccinating pregnant women for COVID-19, specialty care for unaccompanied minors, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

- **Volunteer/Liaison Coordinator of Community Site Visits for Pediatric Residents** – A pediatric faculty member coordinated sites for pediatric residents to connect with local community-based organizations including the Mobile Family Success Center, Interfaith Refugee and Immigrant Services and Empowerment Committee, Manavi Domestic Violence Shelter, New Brunswick Public Library, and the Visiting Nurse Association of NJ WIC Office in New Brunswick.

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

- **Aphasia Support Group** is for stroke patients with aphasia. Approximately 10-20 participants join per monthly session, with patients and family members in attendance. The group addresses coping skills and tools and mechanisms to deal with aphasia challenges.
- **Amputee Support Group** – Patients who have sustained an amputation/ amputations are part of this group, in addition to their family members. There are about 20-30 participants in these monthly support groups, with speakers who address the concerns of patients living with amputations.
- **Parkinson's Support Group, ParkinSINGS Program, Rock Steady Boxing** – This monthly meeting supports the needs of Parkinson's patients and their caregivers. The many available programs that are shared with this population include ParkinSINGS, a choir for patients with Parkinson's disease, utilizing their muscles to help with voice projection and volume. Rock Steady Boxing, BIG and LOUD, and SPEAK OUT therapy are just a few of the additional programs available for Parkinson's patients.

Psychiatry

- **Integrated Case Management Services (ICMS) Family Support** was started by Dr. Anthony Tobia in partnership with Brian Rubinstein, Program Supervisor, Intensive Family Support Services of Somerset County in 2019. The program provides psychoeducation to family members and caregivers (10-20 per session) of individuals suffering from severe and persistent mental illness in Middlesex, Somerset, and surrounding counties. These educational events are hosted remotely four to five times per year and include interprofessional learners and trainees from various Rutgers schools including Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, School of Arts and Sciences, School of Nursing, and the Psychology Internship Program at UBHC.
- **Rutgers RWJMS General Psychiatry Residency Program** – There are a variety of initiatives within the adult psychiatry residency program that impact the New Brunswick community. Principally, the residency program staffs a variety of key psychiatric services to the community. These services include psychiatric consultation-liaison through RWJUH in New Brunswick. Additionally, residents provide service on the adult inpatient unit and child and adolescent inpatient unit at UBHC in Piscataway. These hospitals serve Piscataway but also patient catchments that include New Brunswick and the broader Middlesex County area.

Residents are further involved in the provision of emergent psychiatric care 24 hours a day via the county's only screening center, at UBHC in Piscataway, which serves the broader New Brunswick and Middlesex County community. In their third year of training, residents may rotate through New Brunswick Outpatient, which provides outpatient mental health care to the underserved in the community as well as through Edison Outpatient, which shares a similar mission. Residents participate in the Specialized Addiction Treatment Services program in New Brunswick, which provides treatment to both the uninsured and underinsured of New Brunswick with co-occurring (both mental health and addiction) conditions. Residents also rotate through the Comprehensive Services on Aging Clinic (COPSA), which serves a geriatric mental health patient demographic within the county. The residency program also has a free mental health psychotherapy clinic that primarily serves the psychotherapeutic needs of Rutgers students, many of whom reside in New Brunswick. The residency program further provides free psychiatric consultation to the Promise Clinic, located in New Brunswick, which is the medical student-run clinic that provides care to underserved members of the New Brunswick community.

- **CHOICES (Consumers Helping Others Improve their Condition by Ending Smoking)** is an innovative peer outreach program employing mental health peer counselors and targeting NJ smokers with mental illness. Consumer Tobacco Advocates (CTAs) work tirelessly to deliver the vital message to these smokers that addressing tobacco is important and to motivate them to seek treatment. This year, the CTAs' approach has been an entirely virtual outreach to provide consumers and agencies with linkages to tobacco treatment, referrals, support, and provision of education materials. For grant year 2020-2021, CHOICES provided 88 virtual visits to NJ mental health treatment providers, interacting with 1,144 smokers. For grant year 2021-2022, CHOICES provided 102 virtual visits to NJ mental health treatment providers, interacting with 1,605 smokers. CHOICES—which is now ending its seventeenth year and still going strong—also published two newsletters which were distributed to over 1,500 consumers and mental health agencies.
- **Rutgers Interdisciplinary Opioid Trainers (RIOT)**—The Rutgers Interdisciplinary Opioid Trainers (RIOT) program educates both graduate students at Rutgers University and community members throughout New Jersey on the opioid crisis and medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). Graduate students enrolled in various Rutgers programs including medicine, pharmacy, psychology, social work, and public health take part in the RIOT course. We provide education on the opioid epidemic and understand the importance of MOUD. Since its inception in 2019, RIOT has trained 245 graduate students in the health sciences at Rutgers University on MOUD, the opioid epidemic, and concepts of substance use disorders. A large portion of the course is dedicated to exploring MOUD, covering essential medications such as methadone, buprenorphine (suboxone), and naltrexone (vivitrol). After completing the RIOT course, students go on to provide free

community presentations to groups across the state. RIOT has provided over 135 such community presentations, reaching more than 2,179 individuals.

- **Rutgers University Correctional Health Care** — Since January 2005, Rutgers University Correctional Health Care (UCHC) has, through an affiliation with the New Jersey Department of Corrections, provided the medical and mental health care to New Jersey’s state prison population. UCHC serves 13,000 inmates across nine state prisons. UCHC provides health care that meets community standards and their work is accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. As part of Rutgers, UCHC also trains clinicians in the provision of correctional health care and conducts research seeking to improve the lives of its patients.

Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ)

The Rutgers Cancer Institute together with RWJBarnabas Health is one of an elite group of comprehensive cancer centers in the U.S. designated by the National Cancer Institute and the only one in the state of New Jersey. This coveted designation gives Rutgers Cancer Institute the distinction of being among the best cancer research institutions in the nation. Rutgers Cancer Institute is also New Jersey’s leading cancer program as recognized by *U.S. News & World Report’s* Best Hospital rankings.

- **Community Outreach and Education** — The institute’s dedicated Community Outreach and Engagement team spans New Jersey, promoting bi-directional, meaningful participation in the design and implementation of education, research, and dissemination of information supporting cancer prevention and control.
 - In 2021-2022, this work vastly improved cancer screening access for colorectal and lung cancer above and beyond set goals, expanding partnerships statewide to nearly 300 organizations, with 215 clinical and community partner sites statewide, including establishing a Latino Advisory Council for the New Brunswick community, where the center’s nurse navigator network expanded membership to 124 members promoting lung cancer screenings.
 - The institute strengthens the ability of professionals and volunteers to promote cancer health equity, from post-secondary students to faculty and public health practitioners. In 2021, the institute continued to implement innovative Project ECHO initiatives, using this proven telementoring approach to improve patient care outcomes. The institute was designated an ECHO Hub and completed the first Spanish-language ECHO program of its kind. Additional educational opportunities were provided in “Train the Trainer” events such as the RWJ Community Wellness CRC Promotoras–Spanish in March of 2022.
 - As public events opened following the COVID-19 pandemic, the COE team tabled nearly 50 community events in 2021-2022. The COE team also participated in and/or coordinated 75 virtual events. Summer outdoor events

and masked requirement events assisted in expanding the numbers. Such events as the NJDOH/Rutgers Global Health Institute Mini Health Fair in June 2022 with 100 attendees and the RWJUH/RWJBH Men's Health Fair in July 2022 attended by 43 members helped with promotions of other community engagements during the year. COE teams' outreach and engagement efforts at additional health fairs such as the St. Joseph's Church Hispanic Heritage Month Festival and Sustainable Health & Wellness Village New Brunswick in September 2022 provided engagement and education opportunities reaching nearly 7,000 individuals from 2021-2022 within Middlesex County.

➤ **ScreenNJ**

The Cancer Institute has been entrusted with a state appropriation to manage and strategically plan for the delivery of the Screen NJ program. The program expanded its cancer focus priorities throughout the state from colorectal and lung cancer screening to also include breast, prostate, melanoma, HPV-related, and hereditary cancer screening and risk reduction. To support this growth, the ScreenNJ outreach and engagement team, with support from the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence, exponentially expanded from seven to 41 personnel including the addition of a statewide patient navigation team. The community navigation program is the first of its kind in the nation, partnering with the New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection (NJCEED), regional health coalitions, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), and other health service entities around the state addressing cancer screening. ScreenNJ works directly with all the CEED agencies in the state via an ongoing peer education and practice exchange (ECHO) monthly meeting and discussion that initiated in January 2022.

➤ **The Community Cancer Action Board (CCAB)**

The Community Cancer Action Board helps to build and foster partnerships between cancer researchers, community outreach staff, and New Jersey communities. The CCAB provides input from community thought leaders and patient advocates to ensure community outreach and engagement and research activities are informed, promote health equity, strengthen local capacity, and are responsive to community needs. Highlights include community talks that share vital information about breast cancer care of Black women and biorepository/biobanking consent.

Reference:

Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence Impact Report 2021

www.cinj.org/sites/cinj/files/documents/Rutgers_CHECoE_Impact_Report_2021.pdf

Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence Fact Sheet

cinj.org/sites/cinj/files/documents/Fact-Sheet_interactive_030522_final.pdf

Research Activity

National Institutes of Health Grant Awards Totals: RBHS – Middlesex County Region

Fiscal Year 2022 (10/1/21–9/30/22): \$100,074,398

Fiscal Year 2021 (10/1/20–9/30/21): \$88,949,679

New Brunswick/Piscataway-Based Schools	FY21 Award	FY22 Award
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy	\$8,161,348	\$12,348,233
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School	\$68,220,517	\$73,855,739
School of Public Health	\$12,567,813	\$13,870,426
Total	\$88,949,679	\$100,074,398

Note: CINJ, ICCHPAR, CABM, EOHSI Awards counted in faculty school appointments.

Government and Community Boards

The Rutgers Health schools and institutes included in this report have faculty and staff members involved in the following community and government affiliated boards:

- New Jersey State Nurses Association- Region 4 (2021-present)
- NJ Palliative Care Advanced Practice Nurse Consortium
- Community Healthcare Network, New York (2016-present)
- Monmouth Council Boy Scouts of America
- National Council of Boy Scouts of America
- NJ Department of Health Quality Improvement Advisory Council (2013-present)
- State of NJ Advisory Commission on the Status of Women (2013-present)
- Medical Society of NJ (2006-present)
- Children Can Shape the Future Foundation (2006-present)
- American College of Medical Quality (2019-present)
- American Board of Medical Quality (2022-present)
- Editorial Review Board, American Journal of Medical Quality
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners- New Jersey Chapter (2018-2021, 2021-2023)
- National Advisory Board Member, Center of Excellence on Racial and Ethnic Minority Young Men Who Have Sex with Men and Other Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Populations
- Member, National Advisory Board, National CPN Resource Center (CRC)

- Member, Board of Directors, AIDS and Adolescent Network of New York
- Member, Advisory Committee, AIDS Education and Training Center Program Clinician Consultation Center, University of California San Francisco
- Member, Board of Directors, FXB USA
- Member, Board of Directors, HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Center for Quality Improvement and Innovation
- Member, Board of Directors, Organization of Nurse Leaders New Jersey (2021-present)
- Population Health Community Learning Table Lead, Rutgers Equity Alliance for Community Health (Dr. Rafael E. Pérez-Figueroa)
- Board member, Hyacinth Health Foundation
- Task Force co-chair, The Statewide Task Force to End the HIV Epidemic
- Member, Institute for Prevention and Recovery, Communities That Care
- Member, Academic Advisory Board, NJ Society for Public Health Education
- Member, NJDOH Strategic Oral Health Planning Committee
- Member, HCV (Hepatitis C Virus) Elimination Committee
- New Brunswick Early Childhood Advisory Council
- Member, Board of Trustees, Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
- Chair, New Jersey Medical Assistance Advisory Council
- Governor's Council on the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities
- New Jersey Council for Young Children's Infant Child Health Committee
- New Jersey Hearing Evaluation Council
- Community Care Consortium (coordinated by SPAN Parent Advocacy Network)
- NJ Black ID/DD Consortium
- New Jersey Advisory Council on Traumatic Brain Injury
- Public Policy Sub-Committee, NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities
- New Jersey State Rehabilitation Council, Transition from School to Work Committee
- Chair, I/DD Subcommittee, Overlook Medical Center Bioethics Committee
- Board of Directors (Sandra Hill), New Jersey Primary Care Association
- Alumni Associations for Mask/PPE Donation
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Board of Family Medicine
- Board of Directors, American Brain Coalition
- American Cancer Society

- APPNA – Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America
- Board of Directors, American Preventive Screening and Education Association (APSEA)
- ASCO Cancer Survivorship Committee
- Association of Departments of Family Medicine (ADFM, National)
- BMS Health Equity Advisory Committee
- Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey (BIANJ)
- Center for Great Expectations
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Innovation Center
- Board of Trustees, Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
- Chinese American organizations in NJ/NY
- Committees for the Society for Neuroscience
- Commonwealth Fund
- Department of Children and Families Infant Child Health Committee and Health Care Provider Outreach Committee
- Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health—Overflow Review Study Section, ZRG1 DIRH-N (09), National Institutes of Health
- Editorial Board, *Family Medicine and Community Health*
- Editorial Board, *Journal of American Board of Family Physicians*
- Elijah’s Promise Soup Kitchen
- Health Services Organization and Delivery Study Section (HSOD)
- Healthier New Brunswick Leadership Team
- Help Me Grow NJ State Physician Champion
- Hubs (U54—NCATS)
- Meals on Wheels of Greater New Brunswick
- Medical Society of NJ
- Middlesex County
- Milbank Foundation
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Committee on Implementing High-Quality Primary Care
- National Board of Medical Examiners
- New Brunswick Farmers Market
- New Brunswick Tomorrow’s Health Task Force
- New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians
- New Jersey ACTS Community Advisory Board
- New Jersey Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Awareness Campaign Community Advisory Board
- Advisory Group Member, New Jersey Centering Alliance
- New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services
- New Jersey Governor’s Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism
- New Jersey Health & Human Services

- Citizen Science Team, New Jersey Healthcare Essential Worker Outreach and Education Study - Testing Overlooked Occupations (NJ HEROES TOO)
- Community Organization Design Team, New Jersey Healthcare Essential Worker Outreach and Education Study - Testing Overlooked Occupations (NJ HEROES TOO)
- Healthcare Organization Design Team, New Jersey Healthcare Essential Worker Outreach and Education Study - Testing Overlooked Occupations (NJ HEROES TOO)
- New Jersey Healthcare Quality Institute
- New Jersey Pediatric Residency Advocacy Collaborative
- New Jersey Primary Care Research Group
- New Jersey WIC Advisory Council
- Nicholson Foundation
- NJCR Health Equity Committee
- NJDOH Cystic Fibrosis SDH steering committee New Brunswick Alliance
- North American Primary Care Research Group, Committee to Build Research Capacity
- Parker Health Group
- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Dissemination and Implementation Review Panel
- New Brunswick School Board, Piscataway Health Advisory Commission and School Board
- Planned Parenthood
- PRAB
- Primary Care Collaborative
- Princeton Family YMCA
- Board of Directors, Princeton Mobile Food Pantry
- Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (formerly Woodrow Wilson)
- Project ECHO
- Region Nine Housing Corporation
- Research Committee Member, National Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW)
- Robert Graham Center
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- RWJUH-Community Health Advisory Board
- RWJUH-Community Health Promotion Programs
- Sai Datta Peetham Temple, Edison
- ScreenNJ Steering Committee
- Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
- Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) for Clinical and Translational Science Awards
- Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) Health Equity Committee
- State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Family Support Committee
- Tzu Chi Foundation
- Visiting Nurses Association Health Group
- New Jersey Department of Health
- NJ CEED (Cancer Education and Early Detection)



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