

CDC Prevention Research Centers

	2005 Enacted	2006 Enacted	2007 President	2007 ASPH Request
Prevention Research Centers	\$29.7 million	\$29.7 million	\$29.2 million	\$34.7 million

**Recommendation:** ASPH recommends a \$5 million increase to expand and enhance the network of Prevention Research Centers within the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the FY 2007 Labor HHS Appropriations bill. Within the increase, approximately \$2 million would be used to add two additional centers to the network, and \$3 million would be used to award supplements to existing centers for healthy aging research to address issues such as depression among elders, Alzheimer’s Disease prevention, and other common diseases associated with aging including arthritis, osteoporosis and chronic neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s disease.

**Background:** The Prevention Research Centers (PRC) program is a national network of 33 academic-based research centers, of which 27 are located at schools of public health, and each of which receives approximately \$745,000 in CDC funding. **The collaborative of academic, public health, and community partners engages in community-based prevention research, research translation, and education to address the leading causes of death and disability.** The centers are committed to community-based participatory research and to the translation of research into programs and policies. Each center, selected through a competitive process, conducts at least one core research project with an underserved population. PRCs work with diverse groups of women, adolescents, and the elderly and in distinct geographic areas (such as Harlem, the Southwest, and Appalachia).

The combined research portfolio of the 33 centers includes nearly 500 projects. CDC supports infrastructure and core research projects guided by community committees. The partnerships and expertise that each center builds strengthens its competitiveness for funding by additional federal agencies and private foundations.

The PRCs have many achievements, including:

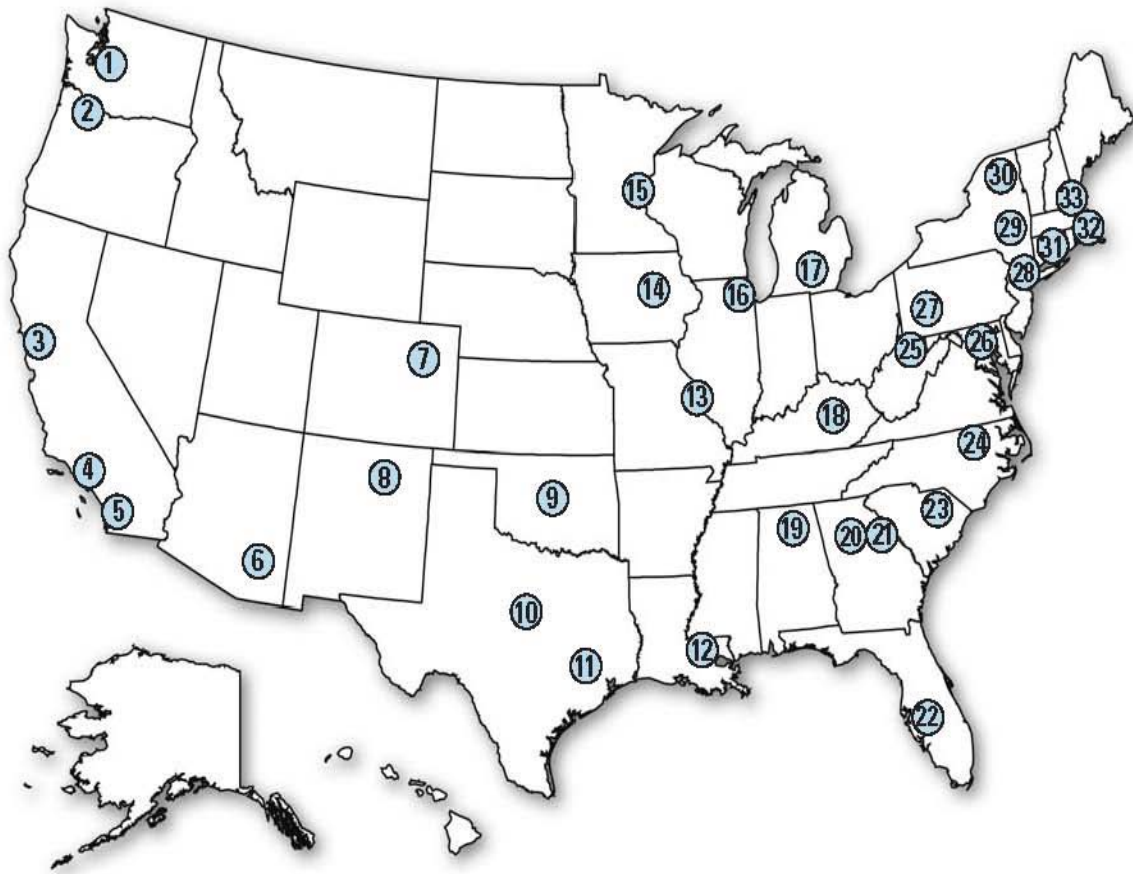
- The ASPH/CDC Minority PRC Fellowship assists minority doctoral students in conducting prevention research in order to enhance the preparation of future public health professionals from ethnic and racial minorities. Examples of current research by fellows include: diabetes prevention in American Indian youth, tobacco control in Asian communities, overweight factors for African American adolescents, and pesticide exposure among immigrants.
- The University of Iowa’s Prevention Research Center established a community coalition, including local and regional health organizations, AARP, and county government representatives, to encourage community residents to become more physically active. Following a community sponsored walking contest, 95% of participants said they planned to continue walking and maintain physical activity level.
- The University of North Carolina’s Prevention Research Center closely partnered with its Community Advisory Committee to design and deliver a program to help women working in rural factories reduce their risk for chronic diseases.
- Harvard University’s Prevention Research Center is assessing selected neighborhoods in Chicago to determine the impact of neighborhood design and the quality of public transportation on physical activity levels and BMI measurements in youths and young adults.

**Rationale:** Many chronic diseases, injuries, and some infectious diseases are caused by behavioral and environmental factors that can be changed. Prevention research is critical to helping people change risk factors in their lives and their communities. The gaps between research findings and their translation into public health programs, practice, and policy must be eliminated so that new knowledge is effectively applied in states and communities throughout the country.

The growing number and proportion of older Americans will place increasing demands on our health care system, social services and public health. While chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer’s, and depression are often experienced at later stages of life, they also can be avoided through known prevention measures. Key measures include practicing a healthy lifestyle (e.g., regular physical activity, healthy eating, and avoiding tobacco use) and the use of early detection practices (e.g., screening for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers, diabetes and its complications, and depression). However, critical knowledge gaps exist for responding to the health needs of older adults. For chronic diseases and conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease, arthritis, depression, psychiatric disorders, osteoporosis, Parkinson’s disease, and urinary incontinence, much remains to be learned about their distribution in the population, associated risk factors, and effective measures to prevent or delay their onset.

**With a \$5 million increase, two additional centers could be added for approximately \$2 million, and the remaining funding would be competitively awarded supplements to existing centers to conduct research in the area of healthy aging on issues such as depression among elders, Alzheimer’s Disease prevention, and other common diseases associated with aging.**

# Prevention Research Centers



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| 1 University of Washington at Seattle                   | 17 University of Michigan                          |
| 2 Oregon Health & Science University                    | 18 University of Kentucky                          |
| 3 University of California at Berkeley                  | 19 University of Alabama at Birmingham             |
| 4 University of California at Los Angeles               | 20 Morehouse School of Medicine                    |
| 5 San Diego State University                            | 21 Emory University                                |
| 6 University of Arizona                                 | 22 University of South Florida                     |
| 7 University of Colorado                                | 23 University of South Carolina                    |
| 8 University of New Mexico                              | 24 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill |
| 9 University of Oklahoma                                | 25 West Virginia University                        |
| 10 Texas A&M University                                 | 26 The Johns Hopkins University                    |
| 11 University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston | 27 University of Pittsburgh                        |
| 12 Tulane University                                    | 28 Columbia University                             |
| 13 Saint Louis University                               | 29 State University of New York at Albany          |
| 14 University of Iowa                                   | 30 University of Rochester                         |
| 15 University of Minnesota                              | 31 Yale University                                 |
| 16 University of Illinois at Chicago                    | 32 Boston University                               |
|   | 33 Harvard University                              |