



COMMUNITY HEALTH



Mass General is the only academic medical center that has won both of the United States' top community health prizes.

A Pivotal Moment

We face a moment of troubling inequity. While more people across the country and the world have access to health care than ever before, many still go without crucial, lifesaving services. And those disparities align disproportionately along lines of race, ethnicity and income.

In Massachusetts, more residents have access to health care than in any other state. But access to quality care does not guarantee good health. Factors such as where one lives and works, and one's educational attainment, can affect up to 80% of one's health status. For example, Brookline is a predominantly white, wealthy Boston suburb. Its residents are expected to live 15 years longer, on average, than those of Roxbury, a heavily diverse, lower-income neighborhood just a few miles away. Similarly, Black women in Boston are significantly more likely to die from breast cancer than white women, even though they undergo preventative screenings more frequently.

These disparities extend beyond Boston. Many communities of color and lower-income areas across the state experience elevated mortality rates—in Chelsea, for example, the rate is 44% higher than the statewide average. At the same time, other urgent public health problems have reached epidemic proportions. Most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit communities of color disproportionately hard—hospitalizations for Black and Latino patients with COVID-19 have been five times higher than for white patients.

These challenges are significant, but they are not insurmountable—and we have reached a pivotal moment in our efforts to turn the tide.

Uniquely Positioned for Impact

For more than two centuries, Mass General has been deeply committed to caring for our communities. Our commitment is even written into the hospital's founding documents: "When in distress, every man becomes our neighbor."

We've never wavered from this crucial pillar of our mission—and as a result, Mass General is now a nationally recognized leader on matters of community and public health. That's why we are the only academic medical center that has won both of the United States' top community health prizes.

More than 50 years after Mass General established its first community health centers, our team is still redefining the role of an academic medical center in the community. Mass General's Center for Community Health Improvement has forged strong partnerships with community health centers, local officials, community organizations and residents to address social determinants of health. Furthermore, Mass General launched pioneering initiatives, including the Kraft Center for Community Health, the Center for Gun Violence Prevention,

Bold Breakthroughs. Compassionate Care. Revolutionary Results.

the Substance Use Disorders Initiative, the Disparities Solutions Center and, most recently, the MGH Structural Equity 10-Point Plan, a roadmap to tangibly address structural racism, that encompasses the hospital's four mission pillars.

Mass General recently made an unprecedented commitment to achieve health equity in Suffolk County. We want to ensure the public health issues we tackle first are the ones that matter most to our communities. As such, Mass General participated in two, first-ever collaborative public health assessments in Boston and north Suffolk County. The year-long process identified unique local health issues and the assets available to address them.

By uniting the top Mass General talent from across sectors and providing them with the right resources and a mandate to innovate, we are uniquely positioned to continue leading the field in addressing the most persistent problems that impact our communities.

Our Vision

Imagine a future where a person's health is not determined by the color of their skin, their education level or how much money they make. Where our toughest public health challenges are not epidemics running rampant, but preventable problems with proven solutions that are implemented broadly. With your help, we will achieve this vision by making vital investments in promising areas, including:

- » Improving the health of families. By decreasing food insecurity and increasing access to stable, safe and affordable housing, we can give families from all walks of life the tools they need to thrive. We will scale our proven models, including Health Starts at Home, Food for Families and First 1,000 Days.
- » Building healthy futures for youth. We can invest in the future of our communities by expanding educational opportunities and behavioral health resources for young people, including our Youth Scholars Program, which supports students in grades 9 through 12 by promoting educational attainment for students in Boston, Chelsea and Revere.
- » Decreasing the impact of trauma and violence. By expanding the Center for Gun Violence Prevention, one of the first such facilities at an academic medical center, we can confront this heartbreaking epidemic head-on and expand hospital and community programs that support survivors of violence.
- » Improving access to care. Too often, those who need medical care the most cannot access it. We can replicate proven practices and approaches, such as our Community Health Worker and Patient Navigation models, and ensure our care teams reach patients in all our health centers and provide the care they need to get healthy and stay healthy.
- » Deepening community engagement. Community health is not a one-way street. We must continue to strengthen our connections with our local communities to ensure we met their needs and learn from their powerful perspectives. We will continue to partner with them to address their greatest health concerns as identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment.



JOIN US

Together, we will bring proven, evidence-based programs to scale while launching new initiatives to discover novel solutions that will eliminate disparities, increase equity and build healthier communities in Boston and beyond.

TO LEARN MORE, please contact Kathy Sheehan at ksheehan15@mgh.harvard.edu or (617) 724-7353.



COMMUNITY HEALTH: OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST

We need to make unprecedented investments in our people, our infrastructure and our programs to ensure we achieve health equity for all of our patients, regardless of their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. The following investment opportunities are just some of the ways that philanthropy can help to realize this vision:

People

- » **Endowed Leadership Positions.** We seek to create and fund a series of endowed positions for key leaders in the Center of Community Health Improvement, the Center for Gun Violence Prevention and our broader community health team. These endowments would allow us to recruit and retain the top minds in these fields and provide additional financial support to advance each of these crucial initiatives.
- » **Expanded Staff Support.** We are committed to addressing the broad spectrum of health challenges facing our local communities, but we can't do that without a diverse team of passionate professionals to execute our pioneering programs—people who can bring these programs to scale and impact more patients with complex needs. This includes investing in more community health workers, patient navigators and additional staff for initiatives like Food for Families and Health Starts at Home.

Infrastructure

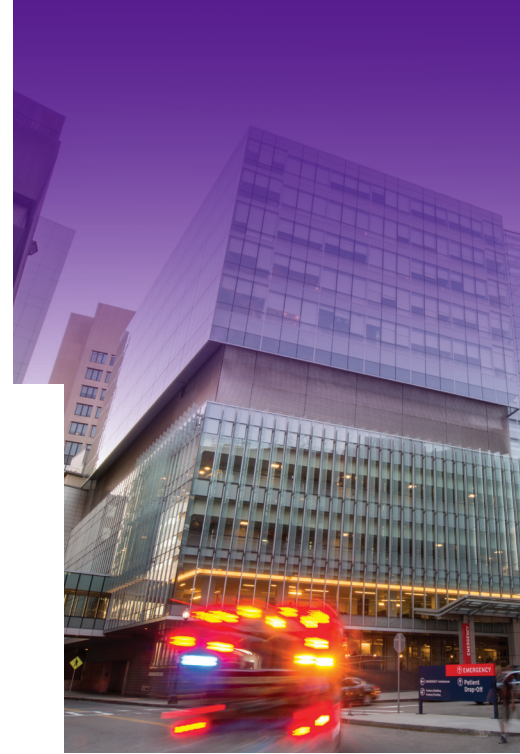
- » **Leveraging Data.** We now have access to previously unimagined amounts of data that informs program design, execution and evaluation. With your support, the Center for Community Health Improvement will mine data on the social determinants of health to identify the at-risk patients and populations most in need of intervention. We will also develop and model best practices for other community health programs around the world.
- » **Utilizing Technology.** Cutting-edge technologies are unlocking innovative approaches that can help community health workers increase the scope and quality of their services. With the aid of these innovative tools, we may be able to find new ways to reach more communities and create more impact at scale—touching even more lives.
- » **Conducting Research.** Research is critical to finding root causes and interventions for a variety of medical and public health problems—including gun violence. While evidence-based approaches have reduced morbidity and mortality from gun violence, the field is largely underdeveloped and in need of significant investment. The Center for Gun Violence Prevention seeks to build the research infrastructure to examine the causes of gun violence, determine the most effective opportunities for intervention and evaluate the impact of educational and intervention programs.



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Programs

- » **The Center for Community Health Improvement (CCHI).** With your support, CCHI will continue to focus on addressing social determinants of health, such as housing, education, employment and access to care. Currently, CCHI is also focused on decreasing food insecurity, a major public health issue that has increased throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, along with behavioral health and substance abuse among youth. With philanthropy, we would implement a continuum of culturally competent programs that ensure families have the resources and support services they need for healthy futures in and beyond their neighborhoods.
- » **The Kraft Center for Community Health.** The Kraft Center is dedicated to incubating and developing solutions to the most difficult community health problems, executing solutions locally and implementing the best solutions with the help of local and national partners. For example, the center spearheaded the creation of Community Care in Reach, a mobile health initiative that provides clinical care, harm reduction services and access to addiction treatment to those in Boston at highest risk of overdose. The Kraft Center seeks to develop other similar initiatives to meet the health problems of the most marginalized and provide opportunities to train a new generation of community health professionals.
- » **The Center for Gun Violence Prevention (CGVP).** The CGVP seeks to address the country's gun violence epidemic through clinical care and education, community engagement, and research. The center is dedicated to preventing firearm-related violence and promoting safety in the homes and communities of the patients we serve. With your support, CGVP will develop and test an expanded curriculum to train health care professionals to better identify patients at risk and improve how they engage those patients in productive conversations about firearm safety.
- » **Community Health Centers:** Community health centers are the key to improving access to care for its residents. There are many opportunities to support the clinical and programmatic work at these centers. Additionally, your support will allow us to expand and strengthen our collaborative relationships, including replicating our proven Community Health Worker and Patient Navigation models in all of our health centers, and ensuring local food banks, including the Revere Food Pantry, which has tripled the number of people it serves, have the support and resources they need.



JOIN US

Thank you for your interest in Mass General's community health programs. With the support of partners like you, we will ensure that our founding commitment to serving our neighbors and those in need remains just as strong tomorrow as it was 200 years ago.

TO LEARN MORE, please contact Kathy Sheehan at ksheehan15@mgh.harvard.edu or (617) 724-7353.