

Building a Culture of Health

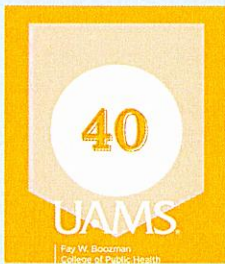
Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI), UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health (COPH), Arkansas Minority Health Initiative (MHI), Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP), Tobacco Settlement Medicaid Expansion Program (TS-MEP), UAMS Centers on Aging (UAMS-COA), UAMS East Regional Campus (UAMS East)



EDUCATION



HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS EDUCATED
ABI, COPH, TPCP, UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST



DISTANCE ACCESSIBLE COURSES OFFERED BY COPH

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

MHI, TPCP, UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST

21,504
TOTAL
EDUCATION
ENCOUNTERS



6,982
YOUTH
EDUCATION
ENCOUNTERS



The 18th Clearing the Air in Communities of Color Conference was held in conjunction with the Arkansas Cancer Coalition's Cancer Summit in March. The event was a collaboration between several organizations including TPCP, MHI, and MISRGO--which is funded through TPCP. A total of 184 Arkansans attended the virtual conference.

SERVICE



ARKANSANS SERVED THROUGH TS-MEP



11,947 EXERCISE ENCOUNTERS
UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST



8,746 CLINIC & PATIENT ENCOUNTERS
UAMS-COA, UAMS EAST



3,038 HEALTH SCREENINGS
MHI, UAMS EAST



692 CALLERS ENROLLED IN TOBACCO CESSATION



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RESEARCH



Researchers at ABI have pivoted some of their research pursuits to focus on COVID-19. Several projects are underway including those focused on virus transmission via breast feeding, rapid screening by chest x-ray, prediction of outcomes in patients, rapid detection in rural and underserved communities, community sentiment, bio-banking of lung tissue, modeling to accelerate drug development, novel compounds that inhibit viral replication, and controlling consumer exposure.



Pictured above is ABI's "COVID robot," one of the newest tools used in the state to process COVID-19 samples. ABI Director McGehee explains, "Prior to having the robot, the microbiology labs could process about 700-800 samples a week. With the robot sample handlers, they are able to triple the number of weekly COVID samples."

Arkansas Biosciences Institute

80

COPH RESEARCH PROJECTS



Faculty and students of the COPH are engaged in a variety of research topics including the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of high-risk populations, tobacco cessation treatments, depression, diabetes prevention, effects of poverty on health, cancer studies, public health policy for restaurants, health literacy, HIV in minority populations, birth defects, and hypertension.

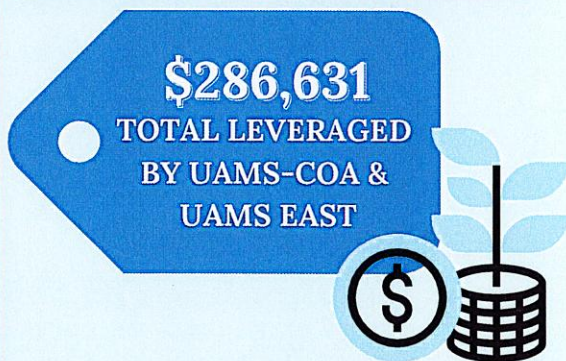
94%

COPH PROJECTS FOCUSED IN ARKANSAS

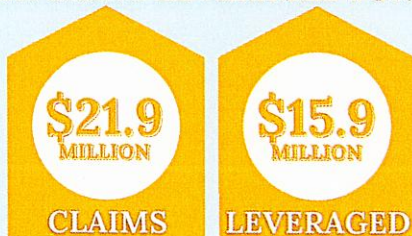


A new center using evidence-based research to inform public health practice in criminal justice settings has been established by the COPH. Researchers at the Southern Public Health and Criminal Justice Research Center will conduct, analyze, and disseminate research in criminal justice settings by working with partners and policymakers to understand challenges associated with criminal justice involvement and its impact on families and communities. Researchers are also investigating COVID-19 outbreaks, transmission health issues, and issues associated with transitioning formerly incarcerated people back into society.

ECONOMIC IMPACT



TS-MEP CLAIMS PAID AND FEDERAL MATCHING LEVERAGED FUNDS



\$12,386

COMMUNITY PARTNER DONATIONS TO UAMS-COA

WELL-BEING RETURNS ON TOBACCO SETTLEMENT INVESTMENTS

ATSC funding during the quarter supported highly skilled jobs, research projects, health education programs, health screenings and COVID-19 vaccinations, clinical services, organizational and community partnerships, and vital healthcare for vulnerable Arkansans. Despite limitations imposed on programs by the pandemic, more than 80% of program indicators were on track to meet future goals. All things considered, the investment of ATSC dollars in the state has enhanced Arkansans' health and well-being and supported a culture of health.

Building a Culture of Health

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TESTIMONIALS

ABI: Bats have been implicated as reservoirs for a range of new human infections, and most current evidence suggests they are the source for SARS-CoV-2. Research by Dr. Kristian Forbes, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville (UAF) is investigating this connection. According to Wesley Stites, PhD, associate vice chancellor for research at UAF, "One of [Forbes's] current projects is focused on investigating known and novel viruses carried by bats in high-risk settings in Kenya and Rwanda. These areas are home to more bat species than most other parts of the world, and, due to cultural practices, people are especially likely to come into contact with bats and their pathogens, thus significantly increasing the risk of virus spillover to people." The Forbes research team has already identified several new coronaviruses carried by bats in these areas.

COPH: A collaboration between the COPH and the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care has resulted in a documentary film recounting the events and work that lead to establishing the COPH in 2001. The documentary was the culmination of the work of Joe Bates, MD, MS, associate dean for Public Health Practice in the COPH and others. Dr. Bates shared, "The college helped prepare Arkansas' first generation of healthcare professionals who understand the urgency and complexities of public health. Their extraordinary skills are evident everyday as we're called upon to find solutions to the coronavirus pandemic. I invite you to learn about the creation of the college from the people who made it happen, in their own words."

MHI: An attendee at the Arkansas Cancer Summit, Joyce C., reported, "The cancer summit was well organized. I loved the testimony and all the data. The summit overall was very informative and good food for thought and action."

TPCP: The 22nd Arkansas Cancer Summit was held in conjunction with the 18th Clearing the Air in Communities of Color Conference on March 9-10. The conference theme was "Cancer in the COVID Era: Navigating Uncharted Waters." The conference featured key presenters from local and national organizations. A breakout session was also held featuring a tobacco control topic: "Smoking, Vaping, and COVID-19: A Dangerous Mix." One conference attendee stated, "I liked the usage of local talent and programs in the conference." Another attendee, and TPCP sub-grantee, reflected, "In spite of the pandemic, you keep pushing. You provide excellent support to sub-grantees."

UAMS-COA: An attendee of exercise programs at the Schmieding Center reported, "Until I retired five years ago, I was very active. Although I intended to stay just as active and pursue multiple hobbies and special projects as before I retired, I became a couch potato. Suddenly I stopped exercising altogether and only let the dogs out in the front yard. By March 1, 2020, I was so weak, stiff, and sore when I woke up, went to sleep, or tried to sleep that I had to support myself by leaning on furniture and going upstairs/downstairs by clinging to the rail. So these Schmieding Center exercise programs have literally been a lifesaver for me."

UAMS East: A patron of UAMS East shared, "After being diagnosed with Type II diabetes, I began a quest to heal myself. I was determined to not have to take insulin or prick my finger five times a day. I also have extensive arthritis. This [fitness] center is single handedly responsible for me no longer being diabetic, and I now have good mobility."