

50 Years of Impact

HIV/AIDS

Judith Levy, PhD, associate professor of health policy and administration, tackles the “forgotten 10 percent” of new AIDS cases among older adults, developing education programming in senior centers and public housing in 1986.

In 1987, Wayne Wiebel, PhD, professor of epidemiology, launches the Community Outreach Intervention Projects, employing community members as outreach workers, to address shared use of drug paraphernalia among injection drug users driving the spread of HIV/AIDS in Illinois. (Image – COIP)

Time magazine cites research in Kenya by Robert Bailey, PhD, professor of epidemiology, on the impact of male circumcision in reducing transmission of HIV, as contributing to the #1 medical breakthrough in 2007.

Children’s Health

In 1988, the Maternal and Child Health Program conducts the first Child Health Needs Assessment ever performed in the State of Illinois.

Asthma

Dr. Victoria Persky, professor of epidemiology, launches the Community Asthma Prevention Program in 1998, a citywide alliance of residents, health professionals, local agencies and public health institutions fostering self-empowerment in combating asthma.

Diversity and Inclusion

In 1989, Shaffdeen Amuwo, PhD, associate dean for community, government and alumni affairs, earns federal funding to support minority students pursuing careers in public health. SPH becomes a leader in developing minority doctoral graduates. (Image – Shaffdeen Amuwo)

Air Quality

SPH professors Peter Scheff, PhD, and Richard Wadden, PhD, pioneer air quality modeling in 1991 that identifies how surface winds over Lake Michigan transport ozone from one location to another. (Image – Wadden)

Health Promotion

Beginning in 1996, SPH’s Illinois Prevention Research Center begins diabetes and hypertension community risk reduction programs in Chicago schools. (Image – School Presentation)

The Illinois Public Health Preparedness Center launches in 2000, led by Dr. Bernard Turnock, to measure and improve preparedness of the public health workforce in Illinois.

Occupational and Environmental Health

In 1996, The World Health Organization designates SPH’s Great Lakes Center for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health as the WHO’s first Collaborating Center in Occupational and Environmental Health.

Epidemiology

In 2003, Drs. Douglas Passaro and Ronald Hershov launch EpiCorps, a rapid response team composed of student volunteers ready to take on key roles in responding to a disease outbreak, terrorist event or natural disaster in Chicago.

In 2005, the EpiCorps team responds to the influx of Hurricane Katrina evacuees relocating to Chicago by creating a database to evaluate the healthcare needs of these new arrivals to the city.

Community Health

Richard Warnecke, PhD, establishes the UIC Center for Population Health and Health Disparities in 2003, examining socioecological and individual factors that affect prognosis and outcomes for women with breast cancer.