

Morehouse School of Medicine National Center for Primary Care



For more than 25 years, the National Center for Primary Care (NCPC) at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) has advanced health equity in primary care by identifying gaps in care and implementing initiatives to fill those gaps. NCPC is a champion for health equity for all communities by serving as a national resource for practitioners, educators, researchers, policymakers, community-based organizations and other health related entities. This document describes NCPC's past, present, and future in strengthening the primary care infrastructure to improve long-term health outcomes for all communities.



VISION

Achieving equitable and optimal healthcare through primary care for all.



MISSION

Strengthening the primary care system through education, research and training to improve health outcomes while advancing and sustaining health equity.

PAST

Congress awarded MSM \$7.5 million in 1997 to establish NCPC, making the Center the first congressionally-sanctioned center to develop programs focusing on the intersection between the primary care system and health equity. This major public health milestone was possible thanks to the efforts of Dr. Louis Sullivan, the former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and President Emeritus of MSM. NCPC's unique lens brought together a diverse and interdisciplinary group of professionals focused on community-oriented prevention and primary care for low-income, minority, and other underserved populations. Over the past 25 years, we have established our voice in the national health equity conversation through strong partnerships, innovative research, and a wide range of programming.

NCPC has addressed primary care needs across many aspects of the system. Some examples of our work and impact include:



Identified [disparities in electronic health record adoption](#) and highlighted the national digital divide among primary care providers who serve underserved communities



Completed a multi-year study on [telemedicine use in primary care settings](#) in the Southeastern United States and how existing telehealth reimbursement policies affected healthcare access and health equity



Part of research team led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that modeled the trajectory of [Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias](#) through the year 2060 and the racial disparities in the diseases' projected morbidity and mortality



Explored racial and ethnic [disparities in the initiation of antiretroviral treatment](#) among HIV-infected Medicaid enrollees and showed the need for parity in treatment for Hispanic/Latinx populations



Led a national discussion about the importance of disaster preparedness and a [need for equitable care before, during and after pandemics and disasters](#)



Identified significant problems with the quality and contextualization of [racial and ethnic COVID-19 data](#) reported among states in the early months of the pandemic, and identified opportunities to advance health equity through more robust data collection

PRESENT

NCPC currently carries out its mission through three distinct divisions and several strategic initiatives. Together, the divisions and initiatives advance health equity by identifying gaps in our nation's primary care infrastructure and addressing those gaps through educational programming, policy advisory, technical assistance, resource dissemination, and community engagement. NCPC targets its resources to healthcare systems, healthcare providers, and community-based organizations.

Health Policy and Research Division



The Health Policy and Research Division serves two key functions. The Division evaluates and informs policies that advance health equity by ensuring a strong primary care system. It also conducts community-relevant research that measures the impact of the primary care system, aiming to improve health and health equity through innovative analytic approaches and practice-based research. The Health Policy and Research Division evaluates work both within NCPC and across the nation.

Awarded **2 MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR AWARDS** from the national Office of Minority Health within Health and Human Services. Both awards advance health equity through policy.

Health Information Technology Division



The Health Information Technology Division has a primary goal of assisting underserved and at-risk communities in adopting innovations in technology and clinical practice that are the right fit for providing healthcare and improving health outcomes. This not only includes technical support, but also the academia associated with the building blocks for the proper exchange of health information and interoperability of technology systems that support the priorities of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

Created **HI-BRIDGE SOLUTIONS** to deliver health-specific technical assistance and expand its statewide health information exchange platform for a more robust solution.

Substance Use, Prevention and Treatment Division



The Substance Use, Prevention and Treatment Division leverages longstanding alliances across the Southeastern United States to identify, support, and implement best substance use treatment practices and increase the awareness, knowledge, and skills of practitioners and pre-service professionals in local communities.

Awarded a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and recently founded the **AFRICAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER**

NCPC's **Strategic Initiatives** produce evidence for primary care improvement developed through the Center's research and practice. These Initiatives provide pathways for implementation and further evaluation.

National COVID Resiliency Network (NCRN)

NCPC was the sole awardee of the

\$40 MILLION

National Infrastructure for Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 within Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities (NIMIC) Initiative grant,

a three-year co-operative agreement between MSM and the Human and Health Services Office of Minority Health. Mobilizing quickly, the NCRN initiative created a multi-cultural, multi-lingual network of community-based organizations to address the impact of COVID in their communities. To assist CBOs and residents in accessing culturally and linguistically relevant COVID-19 information and resources and other health and social needs, NCRN created a technology based community engagement platform connecting communities across states, tribes and territories to health and social service resources and information.

The NCRN Platform is a diverse, multicultural, multilingual tool that employs a community engagement platform for disseminating actionable health information nationwide.

Global Health Initiatives

As part of the **Historic Black Colleges and Universities Global Health Consortium**,

NCPC contributes to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS through training Zambian healthcare workers in high-burden clinical settings. NCPC leads the implementation of gold-standard telemedicine in Zambia and Malawi.

Faculty Development Program

For more than **30 YEARS**,

the Faculty Development Program has supported medical school faculty of color through programming for clinical teaching, scholarship, and leadership skills. This Program ensures that there is a pool of

highly trained and culturally competent primary care faculty and practitioners who are dedicated to addressing the needs of underserved communities in the delivery of health services.

FUTURE

NCPC has the expertise and experience necessary to respond to the **most pressing issues in public health and primary care**.

We recognize the need to stay innovative and responsive to the ever-changing needs of the primary care infrastructure and its delivery of care. The Center constantly evaluates its own work to anticipate upcoming challenges.

We are poised to take on the next challenges such as primary care's role in addressing the fentanyl epidemic.

Our NCRN community engagement platform will continue to serve as an innovative technology solution, enabling us to effectively address health equity challenges in partnership with communities of color and other underserved populations.

NCPC sees a future where health disparities are eradicated and long-term health outcomes are significantly improved. **The Center is working across disciplines to implement the interventions today that create a better, healthier country tomorrow.**