

**Community
Engagement**



Education



**DELTA
POPULATION
HEALTH
INSTITUTE**

Research



Policy



**NEW YORK INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

College of Osteopathic
Medicine
at Arkansas State University

**DELTA
POPULATION
HEALTH
INSTITUTE**

The [New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine \(NYITCOM\)](#) at Arkansas State University established the [Delta Population Health Institute \(DPHI\)](#) to address the social factors of health, which are the main drivers of health outcomes, by advancing health equity to catalyze thriving and prosperous rural communities of the Delta, while training health profession leaders for the Mississippi Delta.

DPHI knows that health starts where we grow, live, learn, work, and play. We are committed to cultivating equitable opportunities for health in our families, neighborhoods, schools, and jobs, achieving greater health outcomes among all people. DPHI leverages its institutional assets to innovatively partner with communities in the pursuit of economic, educational, and health prosperity.

What We Do

- Facilitate community base initiatives to address health disparities using the social determinate of health framework
- Provide quality population and public health education and training
- Deliver quality preventive and healthcare services
- Conduct community-based participatory research to inform evidence-based practices and guide policy change
- Link valuable resources to local communities
- Convene and partner with multi-sector stakeholders to advance health equity and greater health outcomes

We work collaboratively across sectors to cultivate thriving and resilient communities.

At the core of each initiative, DPHI seeks to understand the context of the community members' lived experiences, identify the upstream factors contributing to health in each community, and bridge the gap between clinical care and community health, especially for historically marginalized populations.

DPHI functions through 4 pillars to meet its mission:

Community Engagement, Education, Policy, and Research



Community Engagement

Past Initiatives

- **Supporting Health Advances for Rural Employees** (Mississippi County, Chicot County, Phillips County & St. Francis County)
 - Worksite health initiatives were established for employees in the Delta throughout 19 industries.
- **Community Leaders Empowerment with Adaptation and Response** (Hamburg, Lewisville, Camden, Norphlet & Stephens)
 - Technical assistance provided to municipal leaders and their communities to address outcome of their needs assessment. Support strategies to improve health economic development and public spaces such as parks and community centers
- **DPHI resiliency toolkit** (Rural Municipal Leaders)
 - Technical assistance provided for community preparedness for public health emergencies and overall wellness of communities
- **Community Champions of Health** (Marked Tree, Marvell, West Memphis, Blytheville & Jonesboro)
 - Community members from the Delta received training in core population health and leadership concepts to lead community-based initiatives through consensus building, strategic planning, and implementation to address health-related issues in their communities. DPHI hosted health education webinars and screening events for each champion's community.
 - Training sessions offered
 - Workshops on Community Engagement
 - Building a team with diverse stakeholders in their community
 - Introduction to the concept of Root Cause Analysis
 - Design session for asset Mapping and Project Ideation
 - Community Initiatives led by the Champions of Health
 - [Addressing high-risk behavior in youth](#)
 - [Addressing obesity and sedentary lifestyle](#)
 - Steps toward sustainability
 - On-going training for Community Champions
 - Integration of Champion program into current Community Health Initiatives
 - Secured seed funding for community projects

Current Initiatives

- **Women and Maternal Health Initiative** (Blytheville, West Memphis, & Jonesboro)
 - Customized workshops created for health learning communities which include new mothers and their children to curb maternal/infant mortality, morbidity and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) to improve maternal and pediatric health outcomes in significantly underserved areas of rural Arkansas and greater disparity in minority populations in Arkansas.

- Peer to Peer Mentors: Community members are being trained in leadership development and mentorship, who serve our participants in between the modules to reinforce lessons, provide guidance and referrals to community resources, and support.
- Research study on the impact of this intervention as well as participants' lived experiences women and mothers engaging with health care systems

- **Preventive Care and Health Education**
 - [Mobile health unit](#) working in collaboration with community stakeholders to build a bridge between the community and local health care entities in the Delta
 - Deliver preventive screenings for mental health, cardiovascular health, diabetes, and substance use disorders
 - Education and referrals for cancer and STI screening
 - Served as an extension of the Department of Health for COVID -19 testing and vaccinations
 - Administered over 6,000 vaccines in the Delta communities
 - High return rate to complete vaccine series in the state during the pandemic due to relationship building
 - Facilitate community meetings in person or through webinars on health-related topics
 - Facilitate convenings to mobilize strategies to address health disparities in Delta counties

- **Cardiovascular Health Screening Kiosks in the Delta**
 - Empowerment health stations to screen and prevent cardiovascular disease and other chronic illnesses
 - 23 Health Kiosks across 7 Delta counties
 - Will be offering free virtual or telephonic customized health coaching sessions to qualified individuals
 - Consented and deidentified data collection provide real time health assessment of community which drives health related interventions

Education

- Expert population and public health experts teach Population Health: *study of distribution of health outcomes within a population, the determinants that influence this distribution and the policies and interventions that impact these determinants.* -APHA
 - Taught to health care professionals, health care professional students, undergraduate students and lay persons
- We offer an on-line Master in Public Health Program
 - Rigorous and dynamic online program and tailored to meet the professional needs of individuals working in or planning to work in a public health profession
- Public Health Summer Intensive programs for high school students in Delta counties
 - Experiential learning to Population and Public Health
 - Mentorship from Health Professions students and Professionals
 - Pathway program into health-related professions

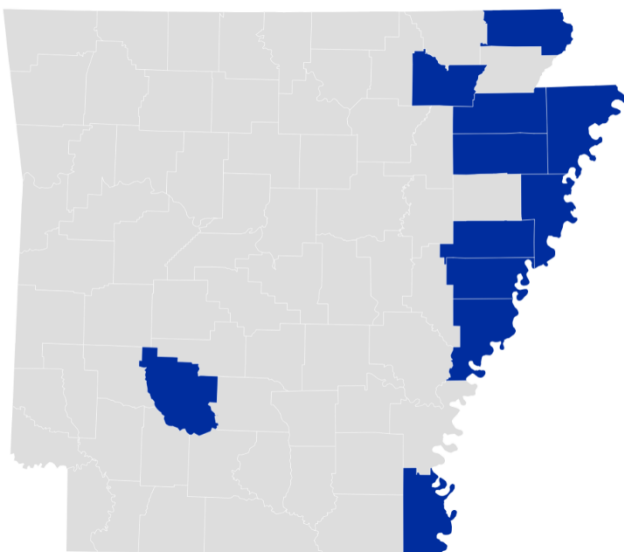
Policy

- The [DPHI Policy Fellowship's](#) mission is to equip and train rising osteopathic physician leaders to transform health and health care through policy change at the local, state and national level.
- The Fellow will serve to strengthen and create collaborations of multi-sector stakeholders and align common interests as health is considered in all policies, at the local, State and Federal level.
- Fellows have proposed, contributed, and draft federal bills that advance health equity ([SNAP Back Act of 2023](#); This bill reinstates eligibility for benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for individuals who are convicted of certain drug-related offenses.)

Research

- DPHI applies the community based participatory research framework to it's research studies related to its health- initiatives.
- DPHI has adapted the *National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparity* Framework
 - Enhance community capacity by supporting equal community participation in research for which they will directly benefit
 - Establish sustainable programs that improve health behaviors and health outcomes in populations experiencing health disparities
 - Accelerate the translation of research findings to communities experiencing health disparities by designing effective and culturally tailored interventions

DPHI CURRENT REACH IN ARKANSAS



DPHI PARTNERS



DPHI Advisory Board Members DPHI Team

About NYITCOM: New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University, is located on A-State's Jonesboro campus. This private-public partnership was established to improve access to health care for the underserved and rural populations in Arkansas and the Mississippi Delta Region.