

Institute of Public and Preventive Health

Addressing issues of public and preventive health using innovative, informed decisions and novel approaches is of extreme importance to the state of Georgia as it ranks:

- 26th for the percent of adults who smoke
- 28th for the percent of adults who exercise regularly
- 38th for the percent of overweight high school students and 29th for obese adults
- 22nd for the percent of adults with diabetes
- 14th for infant mortality
- 6th for rates of tuberculosis

To address these crucial public health issues in our state, Georgia Regents University – the state’s health sciences university and academic health center - launched the Institute of Public and Preventative Health (IPPH) in May of 2012.

A mission to improve health and reduce health disparities

The IPPH’s mission is the improvement of health and reduction of the causes of health disparities, and the prevention of injuries and illness in Georgia through research, service, leadership and education. Specifically, the IPPH will:

- Generate data/analysis yielding novel approaches and facilitating informed decisions in the planning of public and preventive health strategies.
- Increase public and preventive health activities and Multi-disciplinary efforts by coordinating efforts across GRU, and by collaborating with external organizations.
- Develop multiple community networks and actively promote community-based research.
- Enhance the educational experience of students by embedding public and preventative health concepts in their current degree curricula and providing the opportunity to acquire dual degrees, e.g. MD/MPH and DMD/MPH.

Leveraging existing strengths, unique resources, and strategic partnerships in...

health care delivery and management, oral health, correctional health, mental and behavioral health, child health, disease prevention, and healthcare workforce planning.

The institute is being initiated with the research expertise of faculty who have generated more than \$7 million in extramurally funded research and through targeted philanthropic gifts. To leverage distinctive public health strengths, minimize duplication, and maximize values to the state, GRU is developing partnerships with other University System of Georgia institutions that have public health programs, including Georgia Southern University (a focus on rural health) and Georgia State University (a focus on health policy and urban health).

Public and preventive health improvements begin with careful research and focused analysis. With the establishment of the Institute of Public and Preventive Health, GRU is uniquely positioned to positively impact Georgia’s public and preventive health strategies more than ever.