For You, Your Community, and the World

Public Health at Brown
Imagine a world in which health care is excellent and accessible for all.

Imagine a world without cancer, AIDS, and obesity-related diseases.

Imagine a world of fit and active seniors.

Imagine a world of children who have long, healthy lives ahead of them.

Brown’s public health faculty and students are committed to making this vision a reality. They are testing treatments for AIDS, studying how environmental toxins increase cancer risk, working to improve health care and to understand healthy aging, and searching for the root causes of childhood diseases. These efforts support the overarching mission of public health at Brown: to advance, extend, and improve human health and life—now and in the decades to come.
Setting the Course

Public health touches each of us every day: interventions and services developed by public health researchers ensure the safety of our food and water, prevent diseases, and improve health care. Public health helps healthier babies to be born, children to grow and thrive, adults to delay or avoid disease, and older persons to live longer, healthier lives.

Brown’s public health enterprise draws upon the University’s unique character and upon its long tradition of collaboration, innovation, and service. We provide an individualized education for students, conduct ground-breaking, interdisciplinary research, and work with community partners to improve population health.

As an accredited School of Public Health, Brown will grow as a leader in the field; we will be even better positioned to develop local, national, and international collaborations that address important public health challenges, and to attract, educate, and support top researchers and policy makers.

– Terrie Wetle, Associate Dean of Medicine for Public Health and Public Policy

Professor David Savitz came to Brown in 2010 to pursue his interest in perinatal health research:

“I was immediately impressed with the idea of a public health program that was truly integrated with the University—very rare among schools of public health. That cohesiveness applies to Brown’s public health faculty. What I later came to recognize as the Brown academic culture—in which talented, engaging, open-minded colleagues enjoy their work as researchers and teachers—was also very appealing. I’m delighted to be part of the formation of Brown’s School of Public Health, which has real potential to make a major contribution nationally to research, teaching, and service.”
Brown’s public health enterprise is a powerhouse of research and teaching focused on the world’s most pressing health issues. In just a decade, it has grown to support more than 190 faculty and 225 students and to attract more than $60 million in annual external research funding to its centers and institutes.

Brown is recognized for its:

**Culture of independent learning**
Brown encourages students to design individualized, cross-disciplinary academic experiences. As architects of their own education and research, graduates become health care leaders and innovators.

**Innovative collaborations**
Rooted in Brown’s long tradition of interdisciplinary collaboration, public health faculty work with a range of colleagues—from physicians to engineers—to address health issues.

**Expertise in key areas of public health**
Brown is a leader in the study of aging, evidence-based medicine, genetic and environmental determinants of disease, HIV/AIDS, children’s health, alcohol and addiction, and obesity and diabetes.

**Ideal setting for population research**
Rhode Island’s diverse but compact population and integrated health care system make it a superb location for patient population studies that provide critical insights into health and disease.

**High-impact research and initiatives**
With close connections to state agencies, national organizations, and global partners, Brown is recognized for translating research findings into policies and programs that have real impact on people’s lives—locally, and across the country and globe.

Chima Ndumele GS’13 came to Brown to pursue a PhD in Health Services Research with a master of public health degree from Tufts University School of Medicine and significant research experience. Chima’s research interests include exploring the impact of organizational factors on quality of care and identifying strategies to reduce health disparities. He was first author on a study recently published in the *American Journal of Cardiology*.
Advancing the Vision

Over the last decade, the University has worked toward achieving accreditation as a School of Public Health, building on areas of strength and engaging in strategic growth and investment. Accomplishing this goal will enable Brown to accelerate research, attract the very best faculty and students, and compete for grants and contracts open only to accredited schools of public health.

The Next Leap Forward

While Brown is successful at attracting a variety of research funding, philanthropic investment is key to the success of the School of Public Health at this transformative moment. Endowment is needed to recruit new faculty, to develop new programming and educational offerings, and to support research—especially groundbreaking pilot studies.

These investments will help establish Brown as one of the top public health schools in the nation. The impact of donor support will also extend well beyond Brown’s campus: funding will help advance public health research, translate findings into effective on-the-ground health interventions and services, and better prepare students and clinicians to address the health care challenges of today and tomorrow.
On the cover: Patrick Vivier, director of the MPH program, meeting with his thesis advisees. Behind him are maps that resulted from his study of lead poisoning in Rhode Island.