



Housing Mobility and Health: Connecting Families and Children to Improved Health Outcomes

Speaker Biographies

Dolores Acevedo-García, PhD, MPA-URP

Associate Professor

Department of Society, Human Development and Health

Harvard School of Public Health

Dolores Acevedo-García has a doctoral degree in public policy and demography (Princeton University, 1996). She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Society, Human Development and Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. Her research focuses on the effect of social determinants (e.g. residential segregation, immigrant adaptation) on health disparities along racial and ethnic lines; the role of non-health policies (e.g. housing policies, immigrant policies) in reducing those disparities; and the health and well-being of children with special needs and their families. Dr. Acevedo-García is a member of the Social Science Advisory Board of the Poverty and Race Research Action Council. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston, and chairs its Research Committee.

Dr. Acevedo-García is Project Director for DiversityData <http://diversitydata.sph.harvard.edu>, an interactive website on socioeconomic indicators in U.S. metropolitan areas. DiversityData is an ongoing project of the Harvard School of Public Health and The Center for the Advancement of Health, supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. She is co-Principal Investigator on a study funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences looking at the development of allergic sensitization (a precursor to asthma) in a birth cohort of 280 Puerto Rican children in the Bronx, NY. This study uses a multilevel perspective to consider health risks at the household level, building level, and neighborhood level. Dr. Acevedo-García is also the faculty mentor for the Interdisciplinary Consortium on Urban Planning and Public Health (ICUPPH), an organization of students who have joined together around common interests at the intersection of the fields of public health and urban planning and design. ICUPPH is interested in a transdisciplinary approach to investigating issues related to the influence of urban planning and the built environment on health.

Gail Christopher, D.N.

Director, Health Policy Institute

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

Gail C. Christopher is the Vice President of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Office of Health, Women and Families. The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, conducts research and analyses on public policy issues of concern to African Americans and other minorities. Dr.

Christopher directs the Health Policy Institute which focuses on key health policy issues. The Institute is supported by multi-year, \$15 million grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. A strategic visionary leader with over twenty years' experience designing and managing national initiatives and non-profit organizations, she has extensive national, as well as recent international, exposure as a public interest innovator and change agent. Recognized for her pioneering work to infuse holistic health and diversity concepts into public sector programs and related policy discourses, she has created nationally acclaimed interventions in education, health, family support, and economic development. She has drawn upon this unique eclectic background to establish a comprehensive focus for the Joint Center Health Policy Institute that encompasses health, economic, social, environmental and behavioral determinants of well-being. While serving as Executive Director of Harvard's Institute for Government Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Dr. Christopher played a strategic role in negotiating and securing the \$50 million endowment for that new institute. In so doing, she helped to engineer permanence and institutional status for the fifteen year-old Innovations in American Government Awards program. This was the largest single gift in the history of the Kennedy School and of the Ford Foundation, and the second-largest gift ever received by Harvard University. Her distinguished career and contributions to public service were honored by her election as a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration in 1996.

Stacey Davis

*Deputy Director, Program Evaluation & Legislation
Department of Mental Health & Hygiene*

Stacey Davis is the Deputy Director for Program Evaluation and Legislation for the Maryland Medicaid program. Her responsibilities include providing leadership and direction to Planning Administration staff and administrators within Medicaid on policy issues. Specifically, her work involves topics including: HealthChoice (Maryland's Medicaid managed care program), the Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program, the Primary Adult Care Program, the uninsured, Medicaid and insurance expansion and cost containment. Ms. Davis also serves as legislative liaison for the Medicaid program by developing positions and fiscal impact statements on issues which have an impact on Medicaid policy and operations.

Prior to working at Maryland Medicaid, Ms. Davis worked as a health care analyst with the Quality Solutions Group at the National Committee for Quality Assurance and as a research associate for The Helix Group, Inc.

Ms. Davis is a graduate of the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, and holds a Masters of Public Health from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

M. Christopher Gibbons, M.D., M.P.H

*Urban Health Institute
Johns Hopkins School of Public Health*

Dr. Gibbons is an Associate Director at the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute in Baltimore MD. Dr. Gibbons holds faculty appointments at the Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Gibbons' research interests include developing effective eHealth interventions to address health disparities.

Prior to coming to the Urban Health Institute, Dr Gibbons was a Senior Policy Fellow at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the Department of Health and Human Services of the US Federal Government.

Dr. Gibbons completed residency training in Preventive Medicine, fellowship training in General Surgery and molecular neurogenetic oncology, all at Johns Hopkins Hospital and School of Medicine. Dr. Gibbons earned a Master of Public Health degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with emphases in

Health Promotion among Urban and Disadvantaged Populations and the Strategic Management of Health Promotion among disadvantaged populations. Dr. Gibbons received his medical degree from the University Of Alabama School Of Medicine in Birmingham, Alabama.

Thomas A. Glass, Ph.D

*Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Department of Epidemiology*

Dr. Glass is Associate professor of Epidemiology at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is broadly trained in social science and holds a Ph.D. in Medical Sociology from Duke University. He completed post-doctoral training in epidemiology at Yale School of Medicine. He has been on the faculty of the Yale School of Medicine, Harvard School of Public Health and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Dr. Glass is primarily interested in understanding the impact of social and behavioral factors on health and functioning across the lifespan. His previous work has explored the role of social support, social networks and social engagement on outcomes ranging from stroke recovery, to alcohol consumption and cognitive decline. He teaches, directs graduate students and conducts research in social epidemiology and gerontology. In addition to observational studies, he has done intervention studies to improve function in older persons.

More recently, his work has centered on unraveling the impact of factors in the built and social environments on a range of health and behavioral outcomes. He directs the Baltimore Neighborhood Research Consortium (BNRC) at Johns Hopkins. Among his current projects, Dr. Glass is leading a team to develop integrated sensor technology that will improve the measurement of social, physical and cognitive function for use in population studies.

Ellen M. Lawton, Esq.

*Executive Director
Medical-Legal Partnership for Children
Boston Medical Center*

Ellen Lawton, JD, is Executive Director of the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children at Boston Medical Center. Ms. Lawton was chiefly responsible for working with the Kellogg Foundation to secure their support for the creation of the national organization. Ms. Lawton has served as MLPC's Legal Director since 2001 and is nationally known for her leadership in developing the medical-legal collaborative model. She directed a federally-funded Welfare-to-Work advocacy project at BMC. Ms. Lawton has published many articles in both clinical and legal journals describing the medical-legal collaborative model. She was a Harvard Law School Wasserstein Fellow from 2004 - 2005. Prior to joining BMC, she served as Staff Attorney for the Massachusetts Department of Social Services.

Tama Leventhal, Ph.D.

*Research Scientist
Institute for Policy Studies
Johns Hopkins University*

Tama Leventhal, a Developmental Psychologist, is a Research Scientist at the Institute for Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University, with a joint appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, Bloomberg School of Public Health. She was formerly a Research Scientist at the National Center for Children and Families. She received her degree (with distinction) from Columbia University in 1999. Leventhal's research interests are in linking developmental research with social policy regarding children,

youth, and families, particularly low-income families with children. Her work has examined individual-, family-, and community-level influences as well as their intersection on child and adolescent well-being, with a majority of her research considering how neighborhood contexts affect development. Leventhal has directed two studies in which families who resided in public housing in poor neighborhoods were re-located to less poor neighborhoods (New York City Moving to Opportunity Evaluation and Yonkers Project Follow-Up). In addition, she has collaborated on the measure development and data analysis of other large scale and national studies including the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods, the Infant Health and Development Program, the Moving to Opportunity 5-Year Impact Evaluation, the Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey, and the Panel Study of HOPE VI Residents. She is an Adolescence Investigator for the current phase of the NICHD Study of Child Care and Youth Development, which is following this birth cohort through 15 years of age. She was a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Postdoctoral Urban Scholar and is currently a William T. Grant Scholar.

Carlos Manjarrez

Research Associate

Metropolitan Housing and Community Center

The Urban Institute

Carlos A. Manjarrez is a Research Associate in the Urban Institute's Metropolitan Housing and Communities Center and a specialist in the area of community based research. Mr. Manjarrez' areas of interest include community development, housing policy, neighborhood indicators, and participatory research methods. Recent work has focused on building capacity of local human service providers to conduct impact assessments of delivered services. In his work at the Institute Mr. Manjarrez is has developed evaluation guides for medical service agencies, conducted studies on the barriers to human service utilization in low income neighborhoods, and provided a wide range of technical support to local agencies on the use of administrative data for strategic planning and advocacy. Mr. Manjarrez is currently working on a longitudinal survey of neighborhood change in 10 US cities for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. He was also the principal investigator for a national study examining the economic impact of public libraries for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Before joining the Institute, Mr. Manjarrez, worked for the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the American Bar Foundation in Chicago, IL. He was a graduate research fellow at the Joint Center for Poverty Research, Chicago, IL and is a student of urban planning and public health at the University of Maryland. Mr. Manjarrez has been with the Urban Institute since 1998.

Susan Popkin

Research Associate

The Urban Institute

Susan J. Popkin is a Principal Research Associate in The Urban Institute's Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center. A nationally-recognized expert on assisted housing and mobility, Dr. Popkin directs the "Roof Over Their Heads: Changes and Challenges for Public Housing Residents" research initiative, which examines the impact of the radical changes in public housing policy over the past decade. A major focus is how large-scale public housing demolition and revitalization has affected the lives of original residents. This body of research includes the *HOPE VI Panel Study*, the first large-scale, systematic look at outcomes for public housing families; the *Three City Study of Moving to Opportunity*, which builds on her work on the *MTO Interim Evaluation*; the *Race and Public Housing Transformation Initiative*; the *Ida B. Wells Residents at Risk Study*; and the *CHA Relocation and Mobility Assessment*. Dr. Popkin's recent work has focused on the impact of neighborhood change on outcomes for children and youth, particularly the linkages between safety and engaging in risky behavior. This line of inquiry builds on her earlier work on the human costs of crime in public housing, which culminated in the book, *The Hidden War: Crime and the Tragedy of Public Housing in Chicago*.

Previously, Dr. Popkin directed the only national study of public housing desegregation, and was the Project Director for a series studies on the Gautreaux Housing Desegregation program, which assisted public housing residents with moving to housing in integrated communities in Chicago and surrounding suburbs. Dr. Popkin is the author of numerous papers and book chapters on housing and poverty-related issues.

Prior to joining the Urban Institute, Dr. Popkin was an Associate at Abt Associates, Inc. Before coming to Abt, Dr. Popkin was an Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences, School of Public Health, and a Senior Research Specialist at the Prevention Research Center, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Lauren A. Smith, M.D., M.P.H.

Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Boston University School of Medicine

Medical Director, Medical-Legal Partnership for Children

Lauren A. Smith, MD, MPH, is the National Medical Director of the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children and is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Smith has over 10 years of experience serving as a pediatrician for Boston children and currently specializes in inpatient pediatric medicine at Boston Medical Center. Her research has focused on the implication of public policies for child health and racial and ethnic disparities in child health. She has authored two recent reports highlighting the impact of affordable housing and energy costs on child health and well being. She has spoken extensively in academic, policy and community forums and has briefed policymakers on her research and clinical experiences at the local, state and federal levels. She is currently serving as a W.T. Grant Health Policy Fellow in the office of House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi. She recently served as a member of the Massachusetts Commission to Eliminate Racial Disparities in Health and was chair of the subcommittee addressing the impact of social factors on health. She also served on Governor Patrick's transition working group focused on human services. A graduate of Harvard College, she completed her residency and chief residency at Children's Hospital, Boston and her fellowship in General Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center.

Philip Tegeler

Executive Director

Poverty and Race Research Action Council

Philip Tegeler is the Executive Director of Poverty & Race Research Action Council (PRRAC), a civil rights policy organization based in Washington, DC. PRRAC's mission is to help connect advocates with social scientists working on race and poverty issues, and to promote a research-based advocacy strategy to address structural inequality. PRRAC is currently focusing on the continuing consequences of historical patterns of housing segregation for low income families in the areas of health, education, employment, and incarceration. Before coming to PRRAC, Phil was Legal Director at the Connecticut ACLU, where he was engaged in a range of school and housing desegregation cases and other institutional reform litigation. He has also served as Legal Projects Director at the Metropolitan Action Institute in New York City (a public interest planning organization), and he taught for three years in the University of Connecticut School of Law clinical program. Mr. Tegeler has written a number of articles and reports on federal housing policy, including, most recently, "The Persistence of Segregation in Government Housing Programs," in Xavier de Souza Briggs, ed., *The Geography of Opportunity: Race and Housing Choice in Metropolitan America* (Brookings Institution Press 2005). He is a graduate of Columbia Law School.