

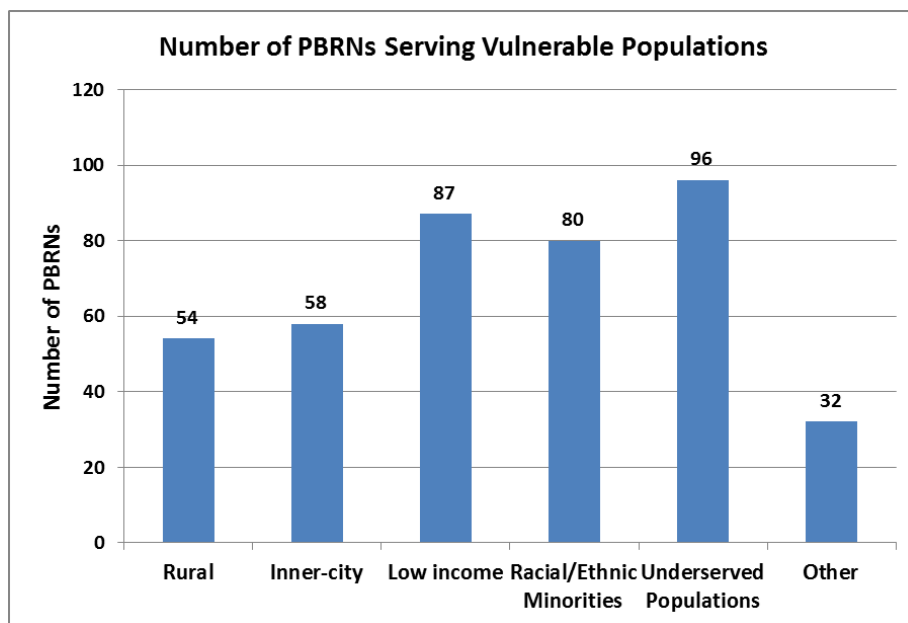
# PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORKS: Advancing Research and Quality of Care for Vulnerable Populations

## CULTURAL COMPETENCY ACROSS POPULATIONS

As of May 2015, 96 of the 173 registered [Practice-based Research Networks](#) (PBRNs) have committed to produce research applicable to improving the care of vulnerable populations living in their communities. These groups of people have a diminished capacity to obtain health care or information services and include underserved minorities, people and families with a low-income, and those living in medically underserved geographic regions. PBRNs are groups of primary care clinicians and practices working together to engage in research initiatives that seek to understand and address health inequities, access to services, and best practices for tailoring health care services. They are at the forefront of implementing innovative, evidence-based methods in practice-based settings, and they recognize the importance of cultural competency and patient engagement.

### Summary Highlights:

- PBRNs are at the forefront of developing and testing culturally competent services for diverse populations.
- 84 PBRNs collaborate on studies with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).
- Evidence, resources, and tools developed by PBRNs to improve care in this population include reports on heart disease and diabetes, a toolkit on health literacy, and guidance on improving access to services and medication adherence.



Of the 96 PBRNs performing research for the underserved, 34% engage an active community advisory board that involves patient and family representatives. In addition, much of the research is done in collaboration with [Federally Qualified Health Centers \(FQHCs\)](#). FQHCs provide comprehensive health care to those living in underserved areas at a reduced or no cost. They also participate in quality improvement projects that use health information technology (IT) and data. Some of the important

research questions being examined by the PBRNs include how to provide culturally competent and linguistically appropriate services to racial/ethnic minority patients, what are the best ways to advance research and improve care for racial/ethnic minority and low-income populations, and how to best provide for the elderly and the disabled.



Through this model of embedding research into practice and communities, PBRNs aim to improve the well-being of underserved populations. Specific PBRNs covering each of these issues are highlighted below<sup>1</sup>.

## Advancing Research and Improving Care for Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations

Health inequities in the United States are well documented among racial and ethnic minority populations. In an effort to better understand these inequities, improve access to services, and tailor services to specific racial and ethnic minority populations, PBRNs are engaged in a wide variety of research initiatives. Examples of recent and innovative programs are highlighted below.



### **Clinical Directors Network (CDN)**

#### [The Counseling African Americans to Control Hypertension \(CAATCH\) Trial](#)

CAATCH evaluates the effectiveness of a multi-level, multi-component, evidence-based intervention compared with usual care in improving blood pressure control among African Americans with poorly controlled hypertension who receive primary care in Community Health Centers.

*“Our passion is to care for underserved populations...A lot of research doesn’t apply to the real world. Our research has to be able to make a difference in the clinic, or we’re not going to do it.”*

*Drs. Kimberly Fulda and Anna Espinoza, Executive Director and Associate Director. NorTex*

### **North Texas Primary Care Practice Based Research Network (NorTex)**

[North Texas Healthy Heart Study](#): The purpose of this study was to assess whether experiences of self-reported racial discrimination and reactions to unfair treatment were associated with coronary artery calcification (CAC), an indicator of subclinical coronary heart disease (CHD). Among those who passively responded to unfair treatment, the odds of having CAC present were approximately three times higher for those experiencing discrimination after

adjusting for age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, body mass index, hyperlipidemia, smoking status, hypertension, diabetes, and first degree relative with heart disease.

### **Research Involving Outpatient Setting Network (RIOS Net)**

#### [Studying different models of HPV vaccine decisionmaking among adolescent girls, parents, and health care clinicians in New Mexico](#)

Data suggest that disparities in vaccine receipt exist among ethnic minority and health populations in the United States, such as Hispanics, who are disproportionately affected by cervical cancer. This project sought to examine the process by which adolescent patients, their parents, and their doctors make decisions about the HPV vaccine and strategies to increase uptake. The study was conducted in two primary care clinics serving predominantly Hispanic patients in an urban New Mexico setting.

<sup>1</sup> PBRNs targeting additional underserved populations including Women, Children, and Rural Populations are highlighted in other thematic PBRN profiles available on the PBRN website: <http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-profiles/thematic-profiles>.

## Cultural Relevancy, Care Resiliency

The provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate services has been identified as one important strategy to help eliminate health inequities. Culturally competent care involves tailoring services to an individual's culture and language preference in an effort to help all patients feel included in the care process and bring about positive health outcomes for diverse populations. PBRNs are at the forefront of developing and testing culturally competent services for diverse populations across a variety of health outcomes. Examples of key research initiatives are highlighted below.

### ***Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations ([AAPCHO](#))***

[Capacity Building in HIV/AIDS for Medical Providers \(CHAMPs\)](#): The CHAMPs program was designed to help Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander (AA&NHOPI)-serving community health centers and other primary care agencies provide HIV/AIDS interventions that are culturally competent and linguistically accessible. The goal of this project was to increase the capacity of health care providers to address HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for underserved AA&NHOPI communities.

### ***Massachusetts General Primary Care Practice Based Research Network ([MGPC-PBRN](#))***

[Building Equity Improvement into Quality Improvement: Reducing Socioeconomic Disparities in Colorectal Cancer Screening as Part of Population Health Management](#): Improving colorectal cancer (CRC) screening rates for patients from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds is a recognized public health priority. This study sought to determine if implementation of a system-wide screening intervention could reduce disparities in the setting of improved overall screening rates using the Technology for Optimizing Population Care (TopCare) intervention. TopCare was associated with a significant decrease in the CRC screening disparity while also increasing overall screening rates. Embedding interventions for vulnerable patients within larger population management systems represents an effective approach to increasing overall quality of care while also decreasing disparities.



### ***Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute ([PAMFRI](#))***

#### [Culturally Adapted DPP \[Diabetes Prevention Program\]](#)

#### [Intervention for Mexican Americans in Primary Care](#)

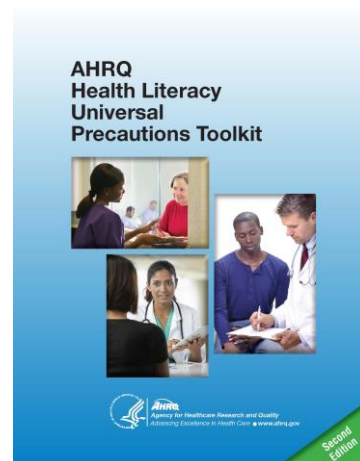
In an AHRQ-funded, 5-year R01 project (PI, Jun Ma, MD, PhD), researchers at PAMFRI will develop and evaluate a culturally and linguistically adapted technology-supported lifestyle intervention for diabetes prevention. The intervention will target Spanish-speaking-only or Spanish-language-dominant Mexican American adults who are overweight or obese and also have known risk factors for type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease such as pre-diabetes and/or metabolic syndrome. The effectiveness and implementation potential of the intervention will be evaluated in a 2-year pragmatic randomized controlled trial.

## Advancing Research and Improving Care for Low-Income Populations

In a country where wealth and health are inextricably linked, researchers and clinicians within PBRNs are working tirelessly to advance research and improve care for low-income populations. Initiatives target numerous vulnerable low-income populations struggling with a variety of health issues such as pregnant women and racial/ethnic minority groups in need of primary care services. The PBRNs highlighted below conduct important work in these areas as well as others.

### **AAFP National Research Network ([AAFP NRN](#)) & State Networks of Colorado Ambulatory Practices & Partners ([SNOCAP](#)) (AAFP and SNOCAP)**

[AHRQ Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit 2nd Edition](#): The purpose of this toolkit is to help primary care practices reduce the complexity of health care, increase patient understanding of health information, and enhance support for patients of all health literacy levels by providing evidence-based guidance to adult and pediatric practices to ensure that systems are in place to promote better understanding by all patients, not just those a practitioner thinks needs extra assistance. The toolkit contains 21 tools that address improving spoken communication, written communication, self-management and empowerment, and supportive systems. Updates for the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition were pilot tested in primary care practices in the AAFP and SNOCAP networks.



### **Virginia Ambulatory Care Outcomes Research Network ([ACORN](#))**

#### [Baby BEEP: A randomized controlled trial of nurses' individualized social support for poor rural pregnant smokers](#)

ACORN tested the effect of nurse-delivered telephone individualized social support ("Baby BEEP") and eight mailed prenatal smoking cessation booklets singly and in combination (2 x 2 factorial design) on smoking cessation in low-income rural pregnant women (N = 695; 75% participation). High abstinence rates in the controls indicate the power of biologic monitoring and home visits to assess stress, support, depression, and intimate partner violence. These elements plus booklets were as effective as more intensive interventions.



### **The Institute for Family Health Research Network ([IFHRN](#))**

[The Perception of Stress and Its Impact on Health in Poor Communities](#): IFHRN conducted focus groups with people from a low-income community with poor health outcomes to ascertain the relationship between perceived stress and health outcomes. Focus group participants described a direct causal pathway between stress and poor health, as well as an indirect pathway through health behaviors, including uncontrolled eating, sleep deprivation, substance abuse, smoking, violence and aggression, and withdrawal and inactivity.

## **Residency Research Network of Texas (RRNeT)**

[Communication technology access, use, and preferences among primary care patients: From the Residency Research Network of Texas \(RRNeT\)](#): RRNet conducted this study to evaluate access to, use of, and preferences for using communication technology among a predominantly low-income patient population. RRNet found that many patients in this sample did not seek health information electronically, nor did they want to communicate electronically with their physicians. The authors noted that this finding raises concerns about the vision of the patient-centered medical home to enhance the doctor-patient relationship through communication technology.

## **San Francisco Bay Collaborative Research Network (SF Bay CRN)**

[Adaptation of the FLU-FOBT Program for a primary care clinic serving a low-income Chinese American community: new evidence of effectiveness](#): SF Bay CRN compared colorectal cancer screening (CRCS) rate changes for patients who received flu shots versus those who did not receive flu shots during the FLU-FOBT Program at a primary care clinic serving a low-income Chinese American community. The network found that the FLU-FOBT Program, as adapted, was effective at increasing CRCS rates for part of the larger FLU-FIT Program, which helps clinical teams increase access to CRCS by offering home tests to patients at the time of their annual flu shots. Successful FLU-FIT and FLU-FOBT Programs have been implemented in public and private clinic settings. These programs were awarded the Annual Prevention Laurel for Innovative Programs by the Prevent Cancer Foundation, the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in 2013. They were recently recognized as a ["Research-Tested Intervention Program"](#) (RTIP) by the

### **Spotlight On: FLU-FIT**



**Adopted by the CDC and American Cancer Society, the FLU-FIT program has received national recognition.**

**Learn more at [flufit.org](http://flufit.org) and the [AHRQ Innovations Exchange](#).**

National Cancer Institute. The FLU-FIT Program has been featured on the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Innovations Exchange](#). The American Cancer Society is currently introducing FLU-FIT Programs in several community health centers across the country.

## **Care for the Elderly**

Older adults in the United States are more likely to be low-income, experience chronic and co-morbid illnesses, and struggle with access to clinical care services. PBRNs are working to advance research and quality of care for elderly populations through initiatives such as improving the quality of dementia care, developing innovative payment models for chronic disease treatment, and improving the readability of prescription bottles. PBRNs are also dedicated to mentoring a new generation of PBRN researchers and practitioners. For example, in 2012, RRNet medical student Anna Haring received the [Presidential Poster Award](#) for her presentation to the American Geriatrics Society: "Should We Change the Way We Communicate? A Study on the Availability of Electronic Communication in Older Adult Primary Care Patients." Additional research initiatives focused on improving care for the elderly are described in greater detail below.



## **Virginia Ambulatory Care Outcomes Research Network ([ACORN](#))**

[Engaging vulnerable consumers in developing useful public health care reports:](#) This qualitative development study assesses the preferences of vulnerable consumers regarding public reports including report content, design, and dissemination and examines African American and Latino Medicare beneficiaries with type II diabetes in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The findings will inform how reports can be redesigned to best reflect those preferences. This study is critically important to building the science of public reporting of quality care and empowering consumers with information that allows rating or comparison of providers according to quality performance standards.

## **Indianapolis Discovery Network for Dementia ([IDND](#))**

[Redesigning acute care for cognitively impaired older adults: Optimizing health care services:](#) To develop a foundation of fundamental needs for health care redesign, IDND conducted focus groups with inpatient and outpatient providers to identify barriers, facilitators, and suggestions for improvements in care delivery for patients with cognitive impairment. INDN researchers found that redesigning care delivery systems sensitive to the influence of cognitive impairment may reduce acute care utilization while improving care quality.

## **North Texas Primary Care Practice Based Research Network ([NorTex](#))**

[Improving accuracy of medication identification in an older population using a medication bottle color symbol label system:](#) The purpose of this pilot study was to evaluate and refine an adjuvant system of color-specific symbols that are added to medication bottles and to assess whether this system would increase the ability of patients 65 years of age or older in matching their medication to the indication for which it was prescribed.

NorTex found that the proposed medication symbol label system provides a promising adjunct to national efforts in addressing the issue of medication misuse in the home through the improvement of medication labeling



## Where to Learn More

<b>PBRNs Specifically Focusing on Vulnerable Populations<sup>1</sup></b>	
<p>AAFP National Research Network (AAFP NRN)*  <a href="http://www.aafp.org/nrn">www.aafp.org/nrn</a>                      Location: Kansas (With 800 Practices Across 50 States)</p>	<p>Metropolitan Detroit Practice-based Research Network (MetroNet)  <a href="http://www.med.wayne.edu/fam/research_scholarship/metronet.asp">http://www.med.wayne.edu/fam/research_scholarship/metronet.asp</a>                      Location: Michigan (With 18 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)*  <a href="http://www.aapcho.org">http://www.aapcho.org</a>                      Location: California (With 29 Practices Across 13 States and the Territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, or Virgin Islands)</p>	<p>Massachusetts General Primary Care Practice Based Research Network (MGPC-PBRN)*  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/massachusetts-general-primary-care-practice-based-research-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/massachusetts-general-primary-care-practice-based-research-network</a>                      Location: Massachusetts (With 19 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Alliance of Chicago Community Health Services (ACCHS)  <a href="http://www.alliancechicago.org">www.alliancechicago.org</a>                      Location: Illinois (With 200 Practices Across 11 States)</p>	<p>Minnesota Pharmacy Practice-Based Research Network (Minnesota Pharmacy PBRN)  <a href="http://www.mpha.org/associations/9746/files/PBRN/index.html">http://www.mpha.org/associations/9746/files/PBRN/index.html</a>                      Location: Minnesota (With 366 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Virginia Ambulatory Care Outcomes Research Network (ACORN)*  <a href="http://www.familymedicine.vcu.edu/research/fmresearch/acorn/">http://www.familymedicine.vcu.edu/research/fmresearch/acorn/</a>                      Location: Virginia (With 101 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Military Primary Care Research Network (MPCRN Network)  <a href="http://www.mpcrn.org">www.mpcrn.org</a>                      Location: Maryland (With 15 Practices Across 12 States)</p>
<p>Access Community Health Network (ACHN)  <a href="http://www.accesscommunityhealth.net">www.accesscommunityhealth.net</a>                      Location: Illinois (With 35 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Missouri Therapy Network (MTN)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/mo-therapy-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/mo-therapy-network</a>                      Location: Missouri (With 800 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Ambulatory Care Research Network (ACRN)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/ambulatory-care-research-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/ambulatory-care-research-network</a>                      Location: New York (With 12 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Research Network  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/meharry-vanderbilt-community-research-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/meharry-vanderbilt-community-research-network</a>                      Location: Tennessee (With 35 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>The Appalachian Research Network (AppNET)  <a href="http://www.etsu.edu/com/appnet/default.aspx">http://www.etsu.edu/com/appnet/default.aspx</a>                      Location: Tennessee (With 17 Practices Across 3 States)</p>	<p>UNC Practice Based Research Network (NCnet)  <a href="http://ncnc.unc.edu/networks/ncnet/">http://ncnc.unc.edu/networks/ncnet/</a>                      Location: North Carolina (With 197 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>A. T. Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona PBRN (ATSU SOMA PBRN)  <a href="https://sites.google.com/a/atsu.edu/practice-based-research-network/">https://sites.google.com/a/atsu.edu/practice-based-research-network/</a>                      Location: Arizona (With 12 Practices Across 9 States)</p>	<p>Nemours Primary Care Research Collaborative (Nemours PCRC)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/nemours-primary-care-research-collaborative">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/nemours-primary-care-research-collaborative</a>                      Location: Delaware (With 20 Practices Across 3 States)</p>
<p>Asthma Training To Accelerate Communication and Knowledge (ATTACK)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/asthma-training-accelerate-communication-and-knowledge">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/asthma-training-accelerate-communication-and-knowledge</a>                      Location: California (With 28 Practices Across 2 States)</p>	<p>Northeastern Ohio Network (NEON)  <a href="http://www.neomed.edu/academics/medicine/departments/family-medicine/research/northeastern-ohio-network-neon/northeast-ohio-network">http://www.neomed.edu/academics/medicine/departments/family-medicine/research/northeastern-ohio-network-neon/northeast-ohio-network</a>                      Location: Ohio (With 33 Practices in 1 State)</p>



# PBRNs: ADVANCING RESEARCH AND QUALITY OF CARE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

<b>PBRNs Specifically Focusing on Vulnerable Populations<sup>1</sup></b>	
Better Health Greater Cleveland (Better Health) <a href="http://betterhealthcleveland.org">http://betterhealthcleveland.org</a> Location: Ohio (With 69 Practices in 1 State)	National Interdisciplinary Primary Care PBRN (NIPC-PBRN) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/national-interdisciplinary-primary-care-pbrn">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/national-interdisciplinary-primary-care-pbrn</a> Location: Iowa (With 50 Practices Across 15 States)
Brigham and Women's Primary Care Practice-Based Research Network (BWPC PBRN) <a href="http://www.brighamandwomens.org/pbrn">www.brighamandwomens.org/pbrn</a> Location: Massachusetts (With 15 Practices in 1 State)	National Nursing Centers Consortium (NNCC Network) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/national-nursing-centers-consortium-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/national-nursing-centers-consortium-network</a> Location: Pennsylvania (With 12 Practices Across 4 States)
Capital Area Primary Care Research Network (CAPRICORN) <a href="http://familymedicine.georgetown.edu/divisions/research/capricorn">http://familymedicine.georgetown.edu/divisions/research/capricorn</a> Location: Washington, D.C. (With 35 Practices Across 3 States)	North Texas Primary Care Practice Based Research Network (NorTex)* <a href="https://www.unthsc.edu/research/nortex/">https://www.unthsc.edu/research/nortex/</a> Location: Texas (With 101 Practices in 1 State)
Colorado Research Network (CaReNet) <a href="http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/departments/familymed/research/PBRN/CaReNet/Pages/CaReNet.aspx">http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/departments/familymed/research/PBRN/CaReNet/Pages/CaReNet.aspx</a> Location: Colorado (With 42 Practices in 1 State)	New York City Research and Improvement Networking Group (NYC RING) <a href="http://www.einstein.yu.edu/departments/family-social-medicine/nycring/">http://www.einstein.yu.edu/departments/family-social-medicine/nycring/</a> Location: New York (With 38 Practices in 1 State)
Cincinnati Area Research Improvement Group Network (CARInG Network) <a href="http://familymedicine.uc.edu/research/caring_net.aspx">http://familymedicine.uc.edu/research/caring_net.aspx</a> Location: Ohio (With 33 Practices in 1 State)	OCHIN Practice-Based Research Network (OCHIN PBRN) <a href="https://ochin.org/services/research/">https://ochin.org/services/research/</a> Location: Oregon (With 729 Practices Across 13 States)
Community Care (CC PBRN) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/community-care">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/community-care</a> Location: Colorado (With 24 Practices in 1 State)	Ochsner Primary Care Research Network (Ochsner-PCRN) <a href="https://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/ochsner-primary-care-research-network">https://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/ochsner-primary-care-research-network</a> Location: Louisiana (With 33 Practices in 1 State)
Care Coordination Institute (CCI) <a href="http://ccihealth.org">http://ccihealth.org</a> Location: South Carolina (With 450 Practices Across 10 States)	Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network (ORPRN) <a href="http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/outreach/oregon-rural-practice-based-research-network/">http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/outreach/oregon-rural-practice-based-research-network/</a> Location: Oregon (With 50 Practices in 1 State)
Collaborative Care Research Network (CCRN) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/collaborative-care-research-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/collaborative-care-research-network</a> Location: Kansas (With 84 Practices Across 27 States)	Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute (PAMFRI)* <a href="http://www.pamf.org/">http://www.pamf.org/</a> Location: California (With 44 Practices in 1 State)
Clinical Directors Network, Inc. (CDN)* <a href="http://www.CDNetwork.org">www.CDNetwork.org</a> Location: New York (With 250 Practices Across 50 States and the Territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, or Virgin Islands)	Post-Acute Therapeutics and Health (PATH) Clinical Research Institute (PATH Clinical Research Institute) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/post-acute-therapeutics-and-health-path-clinical-research">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/post-acute-therapeutics-and-health-path-clinical-research</a> Location: Washington (With 900 Practices Across 43 States)





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<b>PBRNs Specifically Focusing on Vulnerable Populations<sup>1</sup></b>	
<p>Central Texas Primary Care Research Network (CenTexNet)  <a href="http://dorfam.sw.org">http://dorfam.sw.org</a>                      Location: Texas (With 35 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Pediatric Diagnostic Center PBRN (PDC PBRN)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/pediatric-diagnostic-center-pbrn">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/pediatric-diagnostic-center-pbrn</a>                      Location: California (With 5 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Centre for Family Medicine Development Practice Based Research Network (CFMD-PBRN)  <a href="http://cfmd.jp/pbrn/">http://cfmd.jp/pbrn/</a>                      Location: Tokyo, Japan (With 13 Practices)</p>	<p>Pediatric Practice Research Group (PPRG)  <a href="http://www.luriechildrensresearch.org/pprg/">http://www.luriechildrensresearch.org/pprg/</a>                      Location: Illinois (With 100 Practices Across 2 States)</p>
<p>Cystic Fibrosis Newborn Screening Practice-Based Research Network (CFNBS PBRN)  <a href="http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/nbs/Pages/NBSCFParents.aspx">http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/nbs/Pages/NBSCFParents.aspx</a>                      Location: California (With 15 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Portland Research Network (PRN)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/portland-research-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/portland-research-network</a>                      Location: Oregon (With 10 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Colorado Child Outcomes Network (COCONet)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/colorado-child-outcomes-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/colorado-child-outcomes-network</a>                      Location: Colorado (With 15 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Research Association of Practices of the PBRN Shared Resource (RAP)  <a href="http://www.case.edu/med/pbrn/">http://www.case.edu/med/pbrn/</a>                      Location: Ohio (With 135 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Central Ohio Practice Based Research Network (COPBRN) <a href="http://familymedicine.osu.edu/13412.cfm">http://familymedicine.osu.edu/13412.cfm</a>                      Location: Ohio (With 32 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Research Involving Outpatient Settings Network (RIOS Net)*  <a href="http://fcm.unm.edu/research/rios-net/index.html">http://fcm.unm.edu/research/rios-net/index.html</a>                      Location: New Mexico (With 30 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Ventura County Medical Center (COPDVCMCPBRN)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/chronic-obstructive-pulmonary-disease-ventura-county-medical-center-pbrn">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/chronic-obstructive-pulmonary-disease-ventura-county-medical-center-pbrn</a>                      Location: California (With 15 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Recovery Oriented Care Collaborative (ROCC)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/recovery-oriented-care-collaborative">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/recovery-oriented-care-collaborative</a>                      Location: California (With 30 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control (COSEHC)  <a href="http://www.cosehc.org">www.cosehc.org</a>                      Location: North Carolina (170 Practices Across 10 States)</p>	<p>Residency Research Network of Texas (RRNeT)*  <a href="http://iims.uthscsa.edu/RRNeT/home">http://iims.uthscsa.edu/RRNeT/home</a>                      Location: Texas (With 10 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Community Physician's Network (CPNet)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/community-physicians-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/community-physicians-network</a>                      Location: Georgia (With 135 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Scalable Architecture for Federated Translational Inquiries Network (SAFTINet)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/scalable-architecture-federated-translational-inquiries-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/scalable-architecture-federated-translational-inquiries-network</a>                      Location: Colorado (With 100 Practices Across 4 States)</p>
<p>Centre for Studies in Primary Care (CSPC)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/centre-studies-primary-care">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/centre-studies-primary-care</a>                      Location: Ontario, Canada (With 30 Practices)</p>	<p>The Studying, Acting, Learning and Teaching Network (SALT-Net)  <a href="http://upstate.edu/fmed/research/saltnet.php">http://upstate.edu/fmed/research/saltnet.php</a>                      Location: New York (With 22 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>District of Columbia Primary Care Practice Based Research Network (DC PrimCare PBRN)  <a href="http://www.dcprimcare.com">www.dcprimcare.com</a>                      Location: Washington, D.C. (With 35 Practices Across 3 States)</p>	<p>South Carolina Pediatric Practice Research Network (SCPPRN)  <a href="http://www.musckids.org/pediatrics/research/scpprn/">http://www.musckids.org/pediatrics/research/scpprn/</a>                      Location: South Carolina (With 15 Practices in 1 State)</p>



# PBRNs: ADVANCING RESEARCH AND QUALITY OF CARE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

<b>PBRNs Specifically Focusing on Vulnerable Populations<sup>1</sup></b>	
Developmental Disabilities Practice-Based Research Network (DD-PBRN) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/developmental-disabilities-pbrn">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/developmental-disabilities-pbrn</a> Location: Ohio (With 12 Practices in 1 State)	Southeast Regional Clinicians Network (SERCN) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/southeast-regional-clinicians-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/southeast-regional-clinicians-network</a> Location: Georgia (With 1,600 Practices Across 9 States)
Eastern Carolina Association for Research & Education (E-CARE) <a href="http://www.nc-e-care.com/">http://www.nc-e-care.com/</a> Location: North Carolina (With 26 Practices in 1 State)	San Francisco Bay Area Collaborative Research Network (SF Bay CRN)* <a href="http://www.sfbaycrn.org">www.sfbaycrn.org</a> Location: California (With 200 Practices in 1 State)
Evidence-Based Decisions in Dentistry Practice-Based Research Network (EBD-PBRN) <a href="http://www.ebd-pbrn.org/">www.ebd-pbrn.org/</a> Location: California (With 15 Practices Across 2 States and India, Italy, Portugal, and Brazil)	Scripps Health PBRN (SH) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/scripps-health-pbrn">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/scripps-health-pbrn</a> Location: California (With 5 Practices in 1 State)
Free Clinic Research & Educational Engagement Network (FREENet) <a href="http://www.transformationsattheedge.org">http://www.transformationsattheedge.org</a> Location: Florida (With 24 Practices Across 4 States)	Southern Illinois Practice Based Research Network (SIPBRN) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/southern-illinois-practice-research-organization">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/southern-illinois-practice-research-organization</a> Location: Illinois (With 31 Practices in 1 State)
Greater Rochester Practice-Based Research Network (GR-PBRN) <a href="http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/gr-pbrn/">http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/gr-pbrn/</a> Location: New York (With 85 Practices in 1 State)	Southern Illinois Practice Research Organization (SIPRO) <a href="http://www.sihf.org">www.sihf.org</a> Location: Illinois (With 31 Practices in 1 State)
HamesNet (HamesNet) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/hamesnet">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/hamesnet</a> Location: Georgia (With 46 Practices in 1 State)	Appalachia SMART-NET, PBRN (SMART-NET USA) Location: Massachusetts (With Practices Across 9 States and India)
Health Care for the Homeless Practice-Based Research Network (HCH PBRN) <a href="https://www.nhchc.org/pbrn/pbrn-studies/">https://www.nhchc.org/pbrn/pbrn-studies/</a> Location: Tennessee (With 61 Practices Across 27 States)	Safety Net Provider's Strategic Alliance (SNPSA) <a href="http://snpsa.weebly.com/about.html">http://snpsa.weebly.com/about.html</a> Location: Ohio (With 20 Practices in 1 State)
Health Choice Network-Practice Based Research Network (HCN-PBRN) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/health-choice-network-practice-based-research-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/health-choice-network-practice-based-research-network</a> Location: Florida (With Practices Across 10 States)	Southwestern Ohio Ambulatory Research Network (SOAR-Net) <a href="https://www.med.wright.edu/soarnet/">https://www.med.wright.edu/soarnet/</a> Location: Ohio (With 15 Practices in 1 State)
Holistic Healthcare and Research Centre <a href="http://www.hhcro.org/">http://www.hhcro.org/</a> Location: Andhra Pradesh, India (With 15 Practices)	SAIHP PBRN (South Asian PBRN) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/saihp-pbrn">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/saihp-pbrn</a> Location: Orissa, India (With 9 Practices)
Indianapolis Discovery Network for Dementia (IDND)* <a href="http://www.indydiscoverynetwork.org">www.indydiscoverynetwork.org</a> Location: Indiana (With 7 Practices in 1 State)	Southern Primary-care Urban Research Network (SPUR-Net) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/southern-primary-care-urban-research-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/southern-primary-care-urban-research-network</a> Location: Texas (With 32 Practices in 1 State)



# PBRNs: ADVANCING RESEARCH AND QUALITY OF CARE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

<b>PBRNs Specifically Focusing on Vulnerable Populations<sup>1</sup></b>	
<p>The Institute for Family Health Research Network (IFHRN)*  <a href="http://www.institute2000.org">www.institute2000.org</a>                      Location: New York (With 27 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>ShowMe Research Network (SRN)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/showme-research-network-0">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/showme-research-network-0</a>                      Location: Missouri (With 20 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Iowa Research Network (IRENE)  <a href="http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/familymedicine/irene/">http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/familymedicine/irene/</a>                      Location: Iowa (With 186 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Texas A&amp;M Health Science Center Rural and Community Health Institute (TAMHSC-RCHI)  <a href="http://www.rchitexas.org">www.rchitexas.org</a>                      Location: Texas (With 60 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Improvement Science Research Network (ISRN)  <a href="http://www.ISRN.net">http://www.ISRN.net</a>                      Location: Texas (With 135 Practices Across 50 States)</p>	<p>The Dartmouth Practice-based Research Network (The Dartmouth CO-OP Project)  <a href="http://www.Dartmouthcoopproject.org">www.Dartmouthcoopproject.org</a>                      Location: New Hampshire (With 110 Practices Across 4 States)</p>
<p>Jacksonville Health Equity Research Organization (JaxHERO)  <a href="http://hscj.ufl.edu/research/jaxhero/">http://hscj.ufl.edu/research/jaxhero/</a>                      Location: Florida (With 48 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Frontier Rural Innovations Network (The Innovations Network)  <a href="http://www.frontierrural.org">http://www.frontierrural.org</a>                      Location: Kentucky (With 30 Practices Across 10 States)</p>
<p>Johns Hopkins Community Physicians Primary Care Research Network (JHCP-PCRN)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/johns-hopkins-community-physicians-primary-care-research-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/johns-hopkins-community-physicians-primary-care-research-network</a>                      Location: Maryland (With 36 Practices Across 3 States)</p>	<p>UMass Family Medicine PBRN (UMASS-FM-PBRN)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/umass-family-medicine-pbrn">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/umass-family-medicine-pbrn</a>                      Location: Massachusetts (With 10 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>Kentucky Ambulatory Network (KAN)  <a href="http://www.ccts.uky.edu/ccts/KAN">http://www.ccts.uky.edu/ccts/KAN</a>                      Location: Kentucky (With 60 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Instituto de Salud/Hospital Escuel (UNAH PBRN)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/instituto-de-saludhospital-escuel">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/instituto-de-saludhospital-escuel</a>                      Location: Francisco Morazán, Honduras (With 1,400 Practices)</p>
<p>Kansas Patients and Providers Engaged in Prevention Research (KPPEPR)  <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/kansas-patients-and-providers-engaged-prevention-research">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/kansas-patients-and-providers-engaged-prevention-research</a>                      Location: Kansas (With 50 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>Upstate New York Practice Based Research Network (UNYNET)  <a href="http://fammed.buffalo.edu/unynet/">http://fammed.buffalo.edu/unynet/</a>                      Location: New York (With Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>La Maestra Family Clinic, Inc. (La Maestra)  <a href="http://www.lamaestra.org">www.lamaestra.org</a>                      Location: California (With 5 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>University of Tennessee Pharmacist Practice Based Research Network (UT Pharm Net)  <a href="https://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/university-tennessee-pharmacist-practice-based-research-network">https://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/university-tennessee-pharmacist-practice-based-research-network</a>                      Location: Tennessee (With 8 Practices in 1 State)</p>
<p>LA Net Community Health Resource and Research Network (LA Net)  <a href="http://www.lanetpbrn.net">www.lanetpbrn.net</a>, <a href="http://www.projectechola.org">www.projectechola.org</a>                      Location: California (With 100 Practices in 1 State)</p>	<p>University of Utah Primary Care Research Network (UUPCRN)  <a href="http://www.medicine.utah.edu/dfpm/divisionph/research/UUPCRN/index.htm">www.medicine.utah.edu/dfpm/divisionph/research/UUPCRN/index.htm</a>                      Location: Utah (With 10 Practices in 1 State)</p>



<b>PBRNs Specifically Focusing on Vulnerable Populations<sup>1</sup></b>	
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Ambulatory Care Network - Research & Innovation (LAC DHS ACN-R&I) <a href="http://www.ladhs.org/">www.ladhs.org/</a> Location: California (With 73 Practices in 1 State)	Ventura County Medical Center Diabetes Data Control Project Practice Based Research Network (VCMCDDCP) <a href="http://healthyventuracounty.org/healthy-eating/diabetes-diet-prevention/">http://healthyventuracounty.org/healthy-eating/diabetes-diet-prevention/</a> Location: California (With 28 Practices in 1 State)
Lutheran Family Health Center Network (Lutheran Network) <a href="http://www.LutheranMedicalCenter.com">www.LutheranMedicalCenter.com</a> Location: New York (With 9 Practices in 1 State)	Weitzman Institute Safety Net Practice Based Research Network (WINS PBRN) <a href="http://www.WeitzmanInstitute.com">www.WeitzmanInstitute.com</a> Location: Connecticut (With 25 Practices Across 2 States)
Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians Research Network (MAFPRN) <a href="http://www.mafp.org/research">http://www.mafp.org/research</a> Location: Minnesota (With 135 Practices Across 2 States)	WWAMI region Practice and Research Network (WPRN) <a href="http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/wwami-region-practice-and-research-network">http://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/wwami-region-practice-and-research-network</a> Location: Washington (With 38 Practices Across 5 States)
Mecklenburg Area Partnership for Primary Care Research (MAPPR) <a href="http://www.mapprnc.org">www.mapprnc.org</a> Location: North Carolina (With 97 Practices Across 2 States)	West Virginia Practice Based Research Network (WVPBRN) <a href="https://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/west-virginia-practice-based-research-network">https://pbrn.ahrq.gov/pbrn-registry/west-virginia-practice-based-research-network</a> Location: West Virginia (With 53 Practices in 1 State)
Medical Education Research Network (MedEdNet) <a href="http://www.medednet.org">www.medednet.org</a> Location: Oregon (With Practices Across 24 States)	

\*Featured in this summary.

<sup>1</sup>This table includes PBRNs that focus specifically on underserved, low-income, and racial and ethnic minority populations. For more information on PBRNs focusing on Rural populations, see the [Rural Health summary](#).

For more information on these and other AHRQ-registered PBRNs, visit the [PBRN Registry](#). Use the PBRN Registry [advanced search feature](#) to search for networks by location, type of network, health conditions of interest, and geographic coverage.

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