Investigator and director of the Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention.

An intentionally interdisciplinary center located in a graduate school of social work is a unique institutional form that both exploits and enriches the values and orientation of the University of Chicago. CHAS has explored new questions, identified knowledge gaps, sought to enhance the translation of research-to-practice, and identified opportunities for collaborations within and outside the University. Programs support faculty research, research dissemination and translation, student learning, and engage researchers, scholars, policy-makers, and practitioners.

The Center also supports an innovative health policy and research training program for graduate professional students at the University of Chicago, the Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy (GPHAP) (http://www.ssa.uchicago.edu/gphap/). GPHAP is unique among health administration programs in the United States. GPHAP allows students to earn either a Certificate in Health Administration and Policy or a Certificate in Health Administration and Policy with a Concentration in Global Health, while earning a degree in one of the participating graduate schools on campus: the Booth School of Business (http://www.chicagobooth.edu/), the Harris School of Public Policy (http://harrisschool.uchicago.edu/), the Law School (http://www.law.uchicago.edu/), the Pritzker School of Medicine (http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/), and the School of Social Service Administration (http://www.ssa.uchicago.edu/).

The Center is housed at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration (SSA). CHAS moved to the University of Chicago in 1962, and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013.

CHAPIN HALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

SSA Research Centers

SSA’s Center for Health Administration Studies (CHAS) (http://chas.uchicago.edu/) has been a leader for over 75 years in research and education in health policy and services. CHAS engages an interdisciplinary and international group of health policy and services researchers on topics of health policy innovation and reform, health and social service integration, health access, cost and quality, behavioral health, global health, and preventive intervention. CHAS is well-known for expertise in health policy and service effectiveness for the disadvantaged.

To design and test prevention interventions, evaluating the process and impact of these interventions in high-risk, urban communities, and identifying the unique challenges and adaptations necessary for implementation in urban neighborhoods.

1. To understand the nature and causes of youth violence, bringing together a coalition of community, policy, and academic partners.
2. To design and test prevention interventions, evaluating the process and impact of these interventions in high-risk, urban communities, and identifying the unique challenges and adaptations necessary for implementation in urban neighborhoods.
3. To partner with the community, providing training and technical assistance to build capacity for schools and community agencies to select, implement and evaluate evidence-based interventions. CCYVP also evaluates and informs current policy strategies aimed at reducing youth and other forms of violence, evaluates the most promising interventions within the community, and uses these data to inform policy and practice.

CRIME LAB

The UChicago Crime Lab (http://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/labs/crime/) seeks to improve our understanding of how to reduce crime and violence by helping government agencies and non-profit organizations develop innovative new approaches to reducing violence, and testing these new innovations using randomized controlled trials (RCTs). In 2011, the Crime Lab launched the Education Lab (http://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/labs/education/) to support RCTs specifically in the area of improving education outcomes, which, particularly in disadvantaged urban areas, are deeply connected to risk of violence involvement. In 2014, the Crime Lab announced the launch of Crime Lab New York (http://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/labs/crime-new-york/). Leading researchers will provide New York policy makers with rigorous and objective scientific evidence to help reduce crime, violence, and the costs of criminal justice in a new partnership with the City of New York. The Crime Lab began in April 2008 in partnership with the City of Chicago, and its work has been made possible by generous seed funding from the Joyce Foundation, the University of Chicago Office of the Provost, and SSA through the Center for Health Administration Studies (CHAS) and the Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention (CCYVP).

HEALTH LAB

The UChicago Health Lab (http://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/labs/health/) leverages rigorous research methods such as randomized controlled trials, large datasets, and partnerships with government agencies and nonprofits to test novel health care delivery models and improve public health outcomes for underserved populations in Chicago and beyond. Health Lab staff partner with civic and community leaders to generate evidence on what works to improve health outcomes for vulnerable individuals who struggle to navigate the healthcare system.

INTERDISCIPLINARY SCHOLAR NETWORKS

SSA launched the Interdisciplinary Scholar Network initiative to bring together scholars across disciplinary and professional lines and to generate innovative and more comprehensive knowledge aimed at addressing some of society’s most intractable social problems. Two networks have been established:

- The Employment Instability, Family Well-being and Social Policy Network (http://ssascholars.uchicago.edu/einet/) (EINet): This research network enhances the capacity of the field to study employment instability at the lower end of the labor market and develops and evaluates interventions aimed at reducing employment instability and its effects on children and families.
- The STI and HIV Intervention Network (http://ssascholars.uchicago.edu/shine/) (SHINE): This network conducts research on the biological, behavioral, and structural factors that heighten vulnerability to sexually transmitted infections and HIV among vulnerable populations in the United States. SHINE develops and evaluates interventions to alleviate existing STI/HIV disparities.

INFORMATION AND APPLICATION

For further information and application materials, contact the Office of Admissions, The School of Social Service Administration, 969 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637; telephone: (773) 702-1250 or by visiting the SSA website at http://www.ssa.uchicago.edu (http://www.ssa.uchicago.edu/).