SSA Research Centers

Center for Health Administration Studies

The Center for Health Administration Studies (CHAS) focuses on health services and health policy research with a particular emphasis on policy and services for disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. The Center focuses on interdisciplinary and translational research that integrates health and social service delivery that contributes directly to improved population health. CHAS is an endowed University of Chicago center established in 1962 to promote active interdisciplinary collaboration among scientists both within the University of Chicago and among national and international networks of health services and policy researchers.

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 (http://www.ssa.uchicago.edu/gphap-program-requirements) or a Certificate in Health Administration and Policy with a Concentration in Global Health (http://www.ssa.uchicago.edu/global-health-certificate-program), 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 located within the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration (SSA). CHAS was established at the University of Chicago in 1962 and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013.

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

SSA partners with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, an independent entity. Chapin Hall has, since its inception in 1985 as a research and policy center, focused on a mission of improving the well-being of children and youth, families, and their communities. This mission is achieved through policy research—by developing and testing new ideas, generating and analyzing information, and examining policies, programs, and practices across a wide range of service systems and organizations. Chapin Hall’s researchers meet regularly with policy makers, agency directors, philanthropic organizations, and community groups to assure that important findings are placed directly in the hands of those who can best use them.

A number of faculty members from the School of Social Service Administration are partners with Chapin Hall and direct research under its auspices. SSA doctoral and master’s-level students form an integral part of many Chapin Hall research teams and are active participants in seminars and discussions. Please refer to
the Chapin Hall website for more information about the organization’s research, publications, and conferences: http://www.chapinhall.org/.

**CHICAGO CENTER FOR YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

The Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention (CCYVP) brings together researchers, community representatives, practitioners, and policy makers committed to understanding and reducing youth violence in poor, inner-city communities in Chicago—communities with some of the highest rates of youth violence in the country. The core work of the center is guided by the perspective that the most effective way to combat youth violence is to coordinate empirical "pre-intervention" work designed to understand the risk and development of such violence and to rigorously evaluate preventive interventions conducted both under tightly controlled conditions (i.e., randomized control efficacy trials) and in real-world settings (i.e., effectiveness trials). Central to the work of CCYVP is gaining an understanding of the characteristics of communities and neighborhoods that serve as risk and protective factors for youth development. This knowledge helps to identify ways to reduce the risk of youth violence and develop effective interventions.

CCYVP’s primary aims are to build an integrative approach to address youth violence within specific communities in Chicago. The center will address these issues across developmental periods and with children and families with different levels of risk and involvement in youth violence; promote the use of evidence-based practice to reduce youth violence; develop a comprehensive surveillance system to guide intervention activities and to evaluate changes in youth violence in communities and neighborhoods; provide training and technical assistance to support schools and community agencies in selecting, implementing, and evaluating youth violence prevention programs; train new investigators in context-based prevention science; and disseminate empirical findings regionally and nationally.

**CRIME LAB**

The University of Chicago Crime Lab (http://crimelab.uchicago.edu) 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 work with them to test new innovations using randomized controlled trials (RCTs). In 2011, Crime Lab launched the Urban Education Lab (http://uel.uchicago.edu) 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, Crime Lab announced the launch of the University of Chicago Crime Lab New York (http://news.uchicago.edu/article/2014/12/17/crime-lab-new-york-will-help-promote-evidence-based-policies-prevent-crime-violence). Leading researchers will provide New York policy makers with rigorous, 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 the School of Social Service Administration through the Center for Health Administration Studies.

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 will enhance the capacity of the field to study employment instability at the lower end of the labor market and to develop and evaluate 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 ethnic minority communities in the United States. SHINE will develop and evaluate 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) 702-1492 or by visiting the SSA website at http://www.ssa.uchicago.edu.