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Prevention Research Centers Recognized for Commitment to Community Partnerships

Working in close partnership with communities to identify and address local health issues is a core value of the Prevention Research Centers (PRCs), which have been funded by CDC since 1986. At the program's 25th anniversary conference in April, 11 PRCs were recognized for their commitment by receiving a Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Best Practice Award. The National Community Committee, composed of representatives from all 37 Prevention Research Centers' community committees across the country, developed and presented the award.

The PRCs receiving the 2011 awards are at the school of public health or medicine at the following academic institutions:

- Emory University
- Morehouse School of Medicine
- San Diego State University (with University of California at San Diego)
- UCLA/RAND
- University of Arizona
- University of Maryland
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Rochester
- University of South Carolina
- University of Washington
- West Virginia University.

The award recognizes the centers and their community partners for the use of CBPR principles and practices in their research projects. Elements of CBPR considered in selecting PRCs include formal involvement of community partners in research project design, budgeting, and evaluation, and in governance and evaluation of the partnership. Also considered in the selection process were the inclusion of community members as co-authors in policy position papers, peer-reviewed journal articles, and presentations. The intention of the award is to strengthen all the centers' work with community partners by drawing attention to exemplary relationships.

CDC's PRC Program funds 37 centers in 27 states. In 2010, the PRC network reached nearly 30 million people in 103 partner communities.

For more information about the National Community Committee, see www.cdc.gov/prc/community-voice/index.htm. For information about the PRC Program, see www.cdc.gov/prc.