The mission of the Partnership for Healthy Communities (PHC) is to align and strengthen University of Delaware research, educational, and service capabilities to improve the health and well-being of Delaware communities and beyond through effective community partnerships.

We will focus especially on communities currently experiencing social inequities by highlighting and addressing the Social Determinant of Health (SDOH).

SDOH are “conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play [that] affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes” (CDC, “Social Determinants of Health: Know What Affects Health”).

**A Delaware Focus**

![Figure 1. Looking across neighborhoods in Wilmington, DE, we can see how health varies dramatically by place and race. In Figure 1, the areas that are shaded darker purple have higher percentage Black population. There is as much as a 16 year life expectancy difference across neighborhoods in Wilmington- with Black communities generally experiencing the lowest life expectancy.](image)

We Seek To...

1. **Connect** community-based organizations and state agencies with existing University resources and faculty to advance shared interests in health promotion.

2. **Build** the University’s capacity for translational research—including interdisciplinary and multi-sector research and evaluation—that focuses on the development of healthy communities and populations.

3. **Engage** the University and broader community in health-related teaching and service that promote improved health outcomes at the population level and reduced health inequities across and within communities.

4. **Inform** state and national health policy discussions through research, program evaluation, and dissemination that focus on social determinants of health and health system improvements.

**References**