Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
PolicyLab

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Faculty Member

Senbagam Virudachalam is a faculty member at PolicyLab, the Division of General Pediatrics and Clinical Futures at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). She is also an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania, a general pediatrician at CHOP and a senior fellow at Penn's Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. Dr. Virudachalam's research focuses on food justice, advancing equity in diet quality and health outcomes for all children. She studies cross-sector approaches to ensure that all children have stable access to healthy food environments at home and in their communities, enabling them to grow into healthy adults. Dr. Virudachalam has extensive experience conducting community-engaged research, especially with regard to the evaluation of produce prescriptions and Home Plate, a food literacy and cooking skills intervention for low-income parents that she developed in close partnership with Early Head Start. Dr. Virudachalam serves on Philadelphia City Council's Food and Nutrition Security Task Force, the board of directors for The Food Trust, and the steering committee for the National Produce Prescription Collaborative.

Dr. Virudachalam holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, where she graduated with honors in Molecular and Cell Biology and with distinction in general scholarship. She earned her medical degree from the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine and completed her pediatric residency at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. She then completed an academic general pediatrics fellowship at CHOP and earned a Master of Science in Health Policy Research from the University of Pennsylvania.



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