

VISIBILITY AND VOICE COMMITTEE IMPACT REPORT

PolicyLab's Visibility & Voice Committee was founded with a mission to promote awareness of public health research through engagement, inclusive discussions and active community involvement.

The Visibility & Voice Committee (VVC) was established in 2021 at PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) with the goal to promote awareness of public health research through engagement, inclusive discussions and active community involvement. The VVC—comprised of passionate PolicyLab team members—creates opportunities for learning, networking, and exploration while emphasizing the vital role public health research plays in promoting and improving communities.

Throughout the year, we host events designed to introduce students to the wide range of career opportunities in the world of public health research. We welcome undergraduate and graduate students to participate in networking and career exploration events and engage with local high school students to share the significance of evidence-based research in driving meaningful change within communities.

These initiatives not only strengthen our connection to the communities that we serve, but also provide our team members with valuable opportunities for professional development, deeper engagement within our center, and impactful participation in leadership roles.

Our efforts have created multiple internship opportunities for students interested in public health research, communications and health policy within PolicyLab. We are delighted that several students have chosen to continue their journey at CHOP by accepting full-time employment offers.

We invite you to learn more about the VVC's efforts and impact in this report.



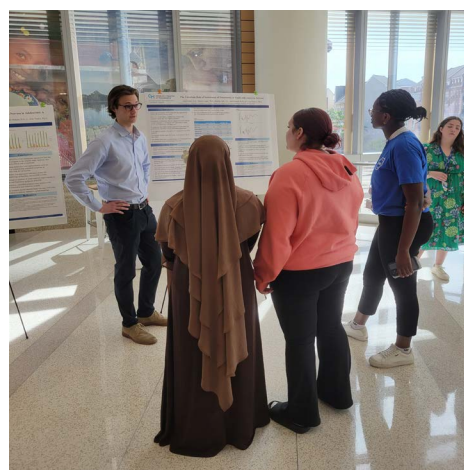
Since 2022, we've raised awareness of public health research among students in local communities by hosting educational and professional development events about science and research careers.

PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

80
students

Students from Philadelphia High School for Girls visit PolicyLab annually for our Public Health Research Awareness Summit, where we showcase the positive impacts of public health research within communities. During their time with us, students also hear from our researchers and interdisciplinary team members on their educational and professional journeys, learning more about exciting career opportunities in public health research.

In 2026, VVC members had the opportunity to visit Girls High students at their school, engaging with them directly in their classroom to bring these conversations even closer to their everyday learning environment.



PENN STATE EBERLY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

39
students

Eberly College of Science at Penn State is dedicated to enhancing lives, improving society, and tackling global challenges by cultivating scientifically trained leaders and innovators. Over the past three years, the Visibility and Voice Committee has partnered with their students interested in STEM and public health careers. We share our experiences and career opportunities to inform and inspire them as they pursue their academic and professional aspirations.



VIRTUAL DISCUSSIONS

We also engage with students virtually to share PolicyLab's research initiatives and the influential role research plays in shaping local policies. So far, we've connected with over 120 students from schools including Temple University, West Chester University, Drexel University, Lincoln University, Georgetown University, Cornell University and Swarthmore College.

120
students

PUBLIC HEALTH & SCIENCES RESEARCH AWARENESS DAY

54

attendees

5

internships

3

full time
hires

Our annual Public Health and Sciences Research Awareness Day introduces students from diverse educational backgrounds to careers in research and public health through networking, skill-building and mentorship opportunities.

Since 2022, more than 50 students have participated in workshops on resume writing and interviewing, connected with PolicyLab team members, and heard firsthand from researchers about the many ways impactful research can improve child and family health.

By fostering early career exploration and increasing exposure to the research workforce, this initiative helps inspire the next generation of public health leaders.



"Attending Research Day was a transformative experience for me professionally and personally.

At the time, I was working as a medical assistant and was interested in learning about career paths in health care outside of the clinical setting and patient care roles. The event introduced me to various research projects at CHOP and PolicyLab and showed me how research directly impacts our communities and public health policies.

Hearing researchers discuss their career journeys within public health and research was especially meaningful for me. They provided insight on various career paths and shared how they got to where they are today. Research Day inspired me to pursue a student internship at CHOP, where I gained valuable hands-on experience in public health and created various professional connections. I left feeling motivated, informed and excited about bringing my clinical experience to research opportunities and making a meaningful impact in public health."

KATIE MULLARKEY

Student Clinical Research Assistant, 2025-2026

"What stood out to me from the research panel was the diversity of projects that different faculty were involved in which highlighted the immense professional opportunities for CHOP employees to impact their communities through medicine.

This panel motivated me to continue looking at CHOP jobs both clinically and research-based because of the solid medical infrastructure that the institution holds. Additionally, the culture displayed through the staff was strong as both Brian and Waynitra took time out of their busy schedules to meet with me after the panel and offered such amazing insight on how to approach joining the CHOP family.

I am strongly appreciative of the VVC panel and the information and connections gained from attending it."

AMARI JACKSON

CHOP Care Team Assistant

VVC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



LANELLE QUZACK
Clinical Research Coordinator
VVC Lead 2024-2025

“Serving as the Visibility & Voice Committee Staff Lead was a meaningful experience in my professional journey. This role pushed me to grow as a leader by strengthening my ability to collaborate across teams, think strategically, and create spaces that center inclusivity and engagement.

Through leading initiatives like Research Day and supporting ongoing committee efforts, I’ve developed stronger skills in project management, communication, and team facilitation. I’ve also gained a deeper appreciation for the importance of amplifying diverse voices and fostering a workplace culture where people feel seen, heard, and valued. This experience expanded my leadership capacity and reinforced my commitment to equity in all aspects of my work.”



ANYUN CHATTERJEE
Clinical Research Coordinator
VVC Lead 2025-2026

“Getting to work on the Visibility and Voice Committee has been one of the major highlights of my time here at PolicyLab. The committee has been incredibly supportive, and I have felt blessed that the whole team has been so generous with their time and expertise.

Looking forward, we will continue to deliver excellent programming and outreach activities to continue investing in the public health workforce pipeline. The work VVC has grown into since its inception represents PolicyLab values at its very core: creating an equal playing field for folks from all types of backgrounds to access great opportunities, and a space for PolicyLab staff and faculty to support each other and grow together.”

Join us in making an impact by advancing awareness of public health research and expanding opportunities for students at every stage.

Whether you attend an event, partner with us, or support our initiatives, your involvement helps inspire the next generation of public health leaders and strengthens the connection between research and the communities it serves.



FOR QUESTIONS OR FURTHER DISCUSSION, CONTACT:

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The mission of PolicyLab at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) is to achieve optimal child health and well-being by informing program and policy changes through interdisciplinary research. PolicyLab is a Center of Emphasis within the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute, one of the largest pediatric research institutes in the country.

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