

UConn HEALTH

HEALTH DISPARITIES
INSTITUTE



Dr. Linda Sprague Martinez, Director of HDI and Professor of Medicine, gives the keynote address at the 2024 CT Public Health Association annual conference.

UConn Health Disparities Institute FY'25 Annual Report (July 2024–June 2025)



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Introduction

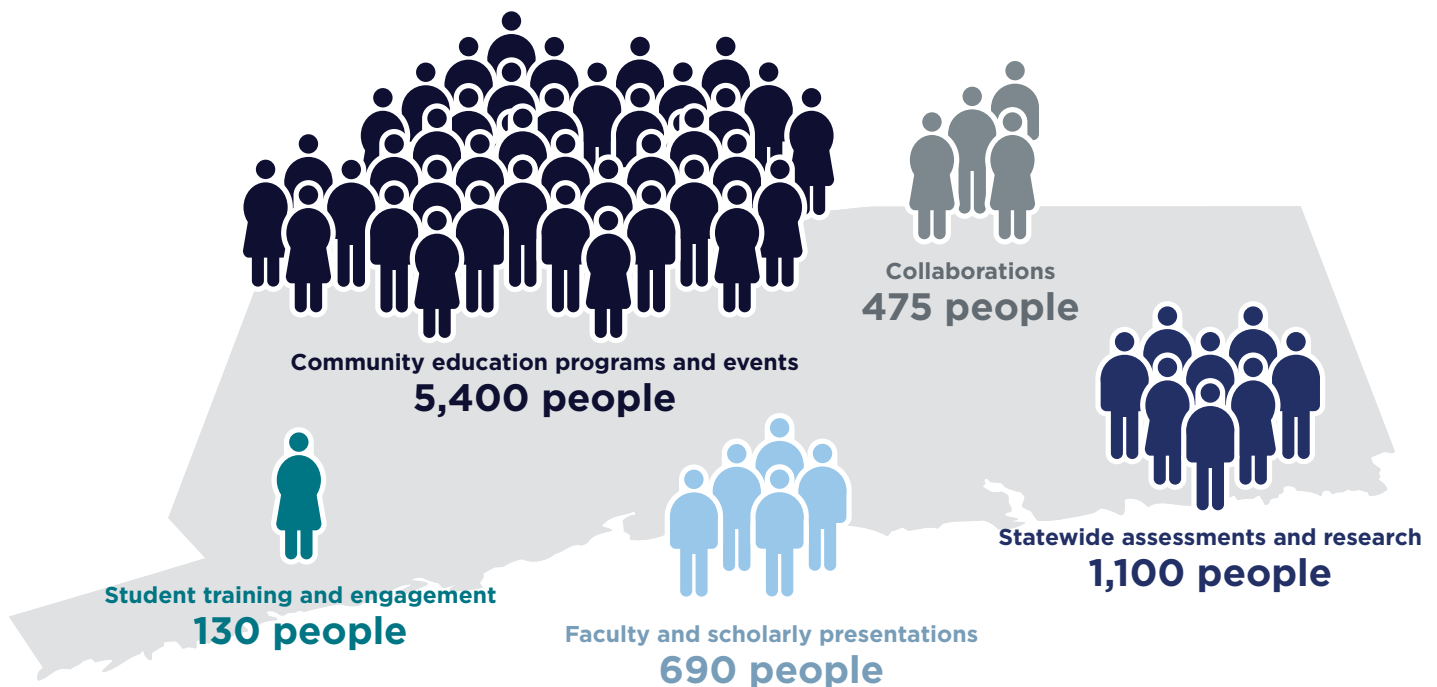
In the past year, the Health Disparities Institute (HDI) at UConn Health has worked to expand our reach and connections across the state in service of our vision and mission. HDI's increased visibility across UConn Health, UConn, and Connecticut has led to many successes that have advanced our strategic goals, which are:

1. Establish HDI as the primary hub for initiating and supporting community-driven health equity research and action in Connecticut.
2. Catalyze systemic change at the organizational, municipal and state levels to confront and dismantle racism.

3. Deliver applied educational experiences that advance health equity and enhance critical consciousness among learners at all levels.

HDI's work in health equity has played a critical role in advancing the brand of UConn Health. Our efforts and engagement with communities across Connecticut have been featured in the media, furthering elevating the profile of both HDI and UConn Health. Over the past year, HDI's reach has included a broad range of community, academic, and legislative audiences and partners. This year alone, we have reached nearly 8,000 people across the state, as outlined below:

Outreach in FY'25



Following we summarize key highlights and accomplishments overall and by each of our goal areas, followed by a list of this year's publications, reports, and funding.

Highlights & Accomplishments

HDI had several exciting developments in growing our team, celebrating faculty honors, and completing our Center Review.

HDI Team

HDI welcomed four new team members this past year:



Zaire Bartholomew, MPH
Special Payroll Research Associate 1 (part-time)



Brianah Williams, MPH
Special Payroll Research Associate 1 (part-time)



Katia Ruesta-Daley, MSW
Research Assistant 2

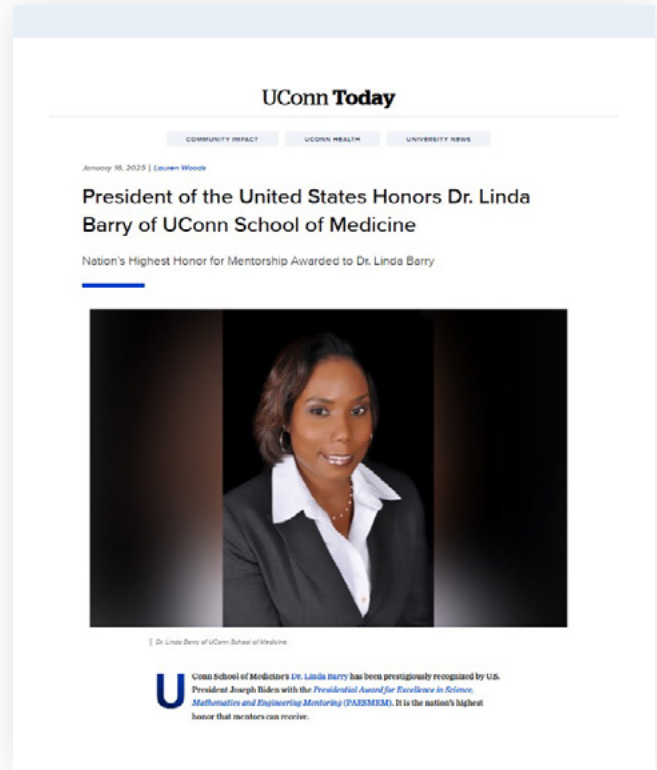
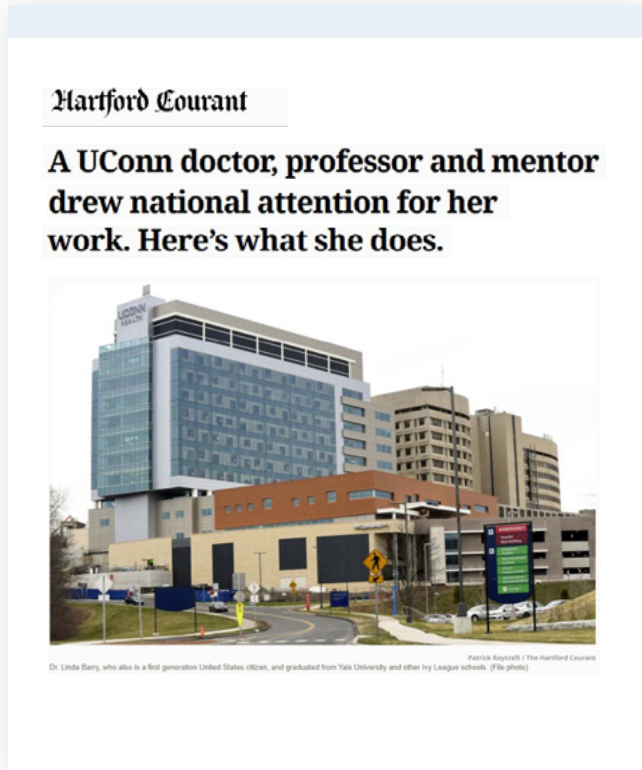


Monika Doshi, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Public Health Sciences

We are excited to have Zaire, Brianah, Katia, and Monika on board!

Faculty Honors: Dr. Linda Barry

Linda K. Barry, MD, MPH, FACS, was selected by President Joe Biden to receive the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). This is the nation's highest honor for mentorship. Dr. Barry's achievements and contributions to mentoring were featured in [UConn Today](#) and the [Hartford Courant](#).



Center Review

HDI completed our first Center Review in 2025. This was a major accomplishment for HDI. We conducted a self-study to reflect on our successes to date, challenges, supports needed, and future goals. A review committee examined our self-study, interviewed HDI faculty, staff, and partners, and provided a report of recommendations.

Overall, the review committee praised HDI's work and efforts in health disparities and health equity research and action. A summary of their recommendations for HDI to continue advancing our mission included focus our priorities to align with available resources; diversify funding sources through supplemental institutional resources and relationships with state agencies; establish advisory bodies, a development strategy, and an impact evaluation; leverage existing institutional resources for much needed administrative support; and continue to grow our regional and national profile. Our next steps are to continue to hone our focus areas, ensuring that our work is responsive to community priorities.

1

GOAL 1:

Community-Driven Health Equity Research and Action

HDI is striving to become the primary hub for initiating and supporting community-driven health equity research and action in Connecticut. To this end, we highlight below several projects from the past year, as well as our work in community engagement.

Patient Action Leaders Advancing Novel, Transformative, Equitable (PA'LANTE) Health Care

- **Goal:** To build the capacity of Latina patients to engage in patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) through a participatory planning process to create a roadmap of patient-centered CER priorities that can improve healthcare delivery and health outcomes among Latinas in Hartford.
- **Partner:** Hispanic Health Council leads the project.
- **Funder:** Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
- **Accomplishment Spotlight:** We completed a bilingual (English-Spanish) training toolkit that outlines a curriculum for Spanish-speaking patients to plan a community assessment and engage in patient-centered CER agenda setting.

Oral Health Equity Assessment Analysis and Reporting

- **Goal:** To analyze and report on the findings of a statewide oral health equity assessment that will gather information on participants' knowledge of and experiences with the CT Dental Health Partnership (CTDHP), which will inform policy and programmatic efforts to improve the delivery of services through the CTDHP.
- **Partner:** CT Oral Health Initiative (COHI)

- **Funder:** COHI/Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA)
- **Accomplishment Spotlight:** The team set up the contract with COHI and began planning sessions for the project. We also started reviewing the survey for both the targeted residents and dental providers



HDI team members (left to right), Dr. Emil Coman, Dr. Linda Sprague Martinez, and Trisha Pitter, at the COHI Annual Conference.

Exploring the Impact of Racial Trauma in Young Adults through Photovoice

- **Goal:** To document lived experiences of racial trauma in young adults of color and educate trauma-informed care providers and juvenile justice professionals on the impacts of racial trauma.
- **Partner:** Center for Treatment of Development Trauma Disorders (CTDTD), UConn Health Department of Psychiatry
- **Funder:** SAMHSA
- **Accomplishment Spotlight:** The HDI team completed a photovoice project with a group of young adults of color, providers, and juvenile justice professionals. The group decided to continue the photovoice project independently because it was so impactful.



HDI team members (left to right), Trisha Pitter and Gillian Betz, at the Black Family Wellness Fair. Photo by Shariffah Mason, Reef's Views.

Grant Submission Spotlight: Environmental Asthma Action Research Led by Youth (EARLY)

HDI partnered with the UConn Health Department of Public Health Sciences, CT Children's Medical Center, and the Boys and Girls Club of Hartford to submit a grant to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The proposed research to action study aims to engage young people in Hartford in asthma research and to partner with them to develop actionable solutions.

The study team will use a youth participatory action research (YPAR) approach to engage a group of youth researchers in assessing environmental exposures that trigger asthma symptoms and designing, implementing, and evaluating youth-generated solutions to mitigate environmental exposures impacting youth asthma.



HDI team members (left to right), Zaire Bartholomew and Katia Ruesta-Daley, with Make the Road partner, Keyla Medina, at the Make the Road CT health fair.

Community Engagement

HDI sponsors and attends community events throughout the year to build and nurture partnerships and raise awareness about HDI. We have supported the following organizations and events this year:

- Make the Road CT Health Fair
- Farmington Valley Chapter of The Links, Inc. and the Black Family Wellness Fair, featured in [UConn Today](#)
- CT Oral Health Initiative Annual Conference
- Aurora Foundation for Women and Girls

- Hispanic Health Council
- Health Equity Solutions for the 7th Annual Health Equity Week
- Urban League of Greater Hartford
- West Hartford Community of Concern and West Hartford Teen Wellness Fair
- YWCA of Greater Hartford
- YWCA of New Britain

HDI team members serve on a variety of committees and boards, demonstrating HDI's vital role in the community:

Organization	Role
CT Oral Health Initiative, LLC	Trisha Pitter, Vice President of the Board
Aurora Foundation for Women and Girls	Trisha Pitter, Board Member
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving	Trisha Pitter, Black Giving Circle Member
West Hartford Community of Concern	Trisha Pitter, Parent Leader
Jordan Porco Foundation	Dr. Rocio Chang, Clinical Advisor
The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children	Dr. Rocio Chang, Board Member
CT Children's Medical Center	Dr. Linda Barry, Community Advisory Board Member
North Hartford Ascend Pipeline (Ascend) Advocacy Team - Office for Community Child Health	Dr. Linda Barry, Advisory Board Member
CT Comptroller Scanlon Urban Healthcare Committee: Equity and Disparities Subcommittee	Dr. Linda Barry, Member
CT Department of Health Infant Mortality Review Committee	Dr. Linda Barry, Member
CT Board of Physicians, Medical Marijuana Board	Dr. Linda Barry, Member
Community Advisory Committee to the CT Health Foundation	Dr. Linda Sprague Martinez and Dr. Linda Barry, Members
Hispanic Health Council	Dr. Linda Sprague Martinez, IRB Co-Chair
Center for Community Health Research and Service	Dr. Linda Sprague Martinez, Member
CT Comptroller Scanlon Urban Healthcare Committee: Equity and Disparities Subcommittee	Dr. Linda Sprague Martinez, Member

2 GOAL 2: SYSTEMIC CHANGE TO DISMANTLE RACISM

In service of HDI’s goal to catalyze systemic change to confront and dismantle racism, we highlight below projects and partnerships in the areas of racism as a public health crisis, language justice, and population health.

Addressing Racism as a Public Health Crisis

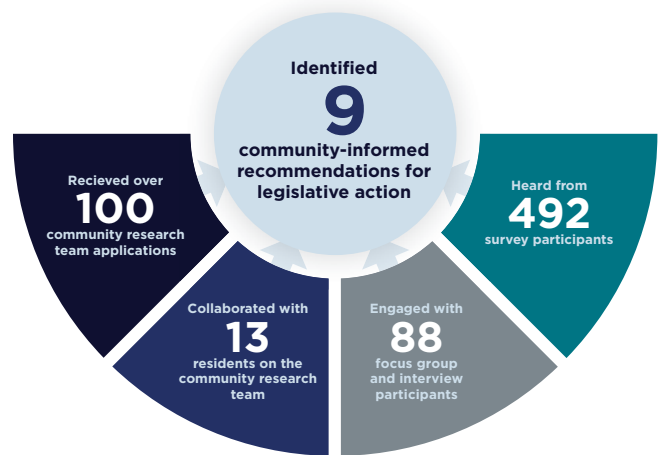
In 2021, the Connecticut General Assembly declared racism a public health crisis and established the [Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health](#) (the Commission) through Public Act No. 21-35. The Commission is tasked with addressing the impact of racism on health and advancing racial equity in Connecticut.

In 2024, the Commission contracted HDI to initiate community-based participatory research (CBPR) and strategic planning. Using a CBPR approach, HDI assembled a statewide Community Research Team of impacted people with lived experience. This team co-developed and led the implementation of mixed methods statewide community assessment in two phases to inform the strategic planning process. The ultimate purpose of this process was to eradicate structural racism and racial inequities in health by identifying community-informed state-level policy and practice solutions.

Through this work, we have achieved several key accomplishments, outlined below.

Strategic Plan: HDI completed the strategic planning process and delivered the Commission’s strategic plan in June 2025. The Commission’s strategic plan and associated documents can be found [here on their website](#).

Statewide Engagement: Throughout this process, HDI engaged with partners and impacted residents across the state that included:



Strategic Plan Preview Reception: In May 2024, we held an event at the state Capitol to preview policy recommendations to legislators and partners. Representatives from the Commission, HDI, and the Community Research Team gave remarks. Attendees gave very positive feedback on the recommendations and were excited to see the full strategic plan.



May 21 event of the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health included CREPH staff and Advisory Body members, HDI team, and State Senator Saud Anwar. (Photo by Shariffah Mason, Reef’s Views).

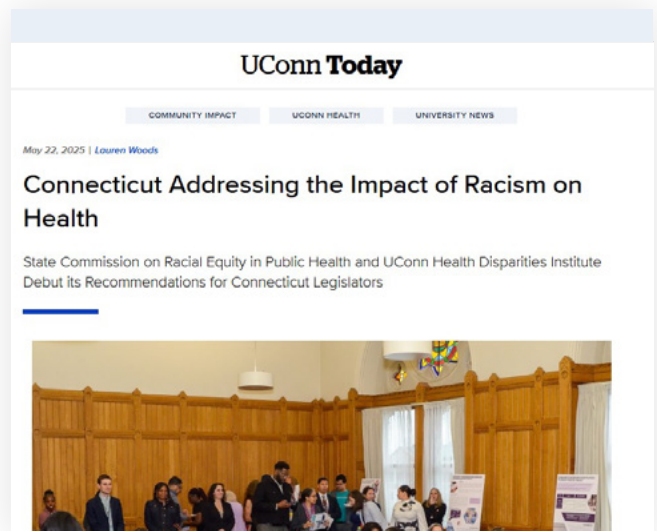


DeLita Rose-Daniels, Community Faculty, sharing remarks at the event. (Photo by Shariffah Mason, Reef's Views)



Community research team and State Senator Saud Anwar (Photo by Shariffah Mason, Reef's Views).

Media Coverage: This work and HDI's partnership with the Commission was featured in several media outlets including NBC CT live TV, [Fox61](#), and [UConn Today](#).



Next Steps: The Commission will continue to partner with HDI for dissemination of their strategic plan. HDI's focus will be engaging the general public, community advocates and organizers, community-based organizations, public health practitioners, health care providers, and health care leaders to advance the Commission's strategic goals in addressing the impact of racism on health in Connecticut.

Advancing Language Justice

These new projects have highlighted a theme of language justice in HDI's work.

Enhancing Spanish-Speaking Patients' Participation in Clinical Trials

- **Goal:** To explore perspectives, preferences, unmet needs, and barriers while developing patient-informed resources to improve participation of underrepresented groups in clinical trials.
- **Partner:** Boston University
- **Funder:** FDA
- **Accomplishment Spotlight:** We engaged 34 diverse Spanish speakers from 8 nationalities living in Boston in focus groups exploring barriers to participation in clinical trials. A team of nine Spanish speakers is working with us to develop a campaign to promote participation in clinical trials as well as training resources for clinical researchers focused on linguistic inclusion and best practices in multilingual research.


Voces Unidas Para Salud: Codesigning Culturally Appropriate Care Models in Hartford

- **Goal:** To expand culturally appropriate healthcare for Spanish-speaking residents in Hartford, CT by developing and implementing resident-identified solutions over a two-year, three-phase process.
- **Partner:** Hispanic Health Council, Make the Road CT
- **Funder:** Cigna Foundation
- **Accomplishment Spotlight:** The project team engaged 20 participants to complete three Spanish language focus groups. These discussions explored Spanish-speaking residents' perspectives on healthcare in Hartford, the barriers they experience when accessing care, and changes they'd like to see.

Partnership Spotlight: Office of Population Health at UConn Health

At UConn Health, the Population Health team is responsible for screening patients for health-related social needs, such as food insecurity, housing, transportation, financial resource strain, and utilities. These needs correspond with the social determinants of health (SDOH), which are receiving increased national attention in clinical settings.

HDI analyzed the SDOH data and wrote a report for the Population Health team that identified patients' social needs, which patients are disproportionately affected, and strategies known to be effective in addressing social needs to inform planning efforts. This collaboration harnesses the strengths and talents of both teams to better meet the institutional mission of helping people achieve and maintain healthy lives and restoring wellness/health to maximum attainable levels.



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March 2025

**SOCIAL
DETERMINANTS OF
HEALTH REPORT**

Recommended Citation: Bartholomew, Z., Diaz, V., Coman, E., Sprague Martinez, L. Social Determinants of Health Report. UConn Health Disparities Institute. 2025. For more information about this report, please contact Dr. Linda Sprague Martinez at spraguemartinez@uchc.edu.

GOAL 3:

APPLIED EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

HDI's work to craft and deliver relevant, applied health equity educational experiences for students, the community, and partners is rich and multi-faceted, evidenced by the projects and initiatives outlined below.

Waterbury Health Equity Scholars Program

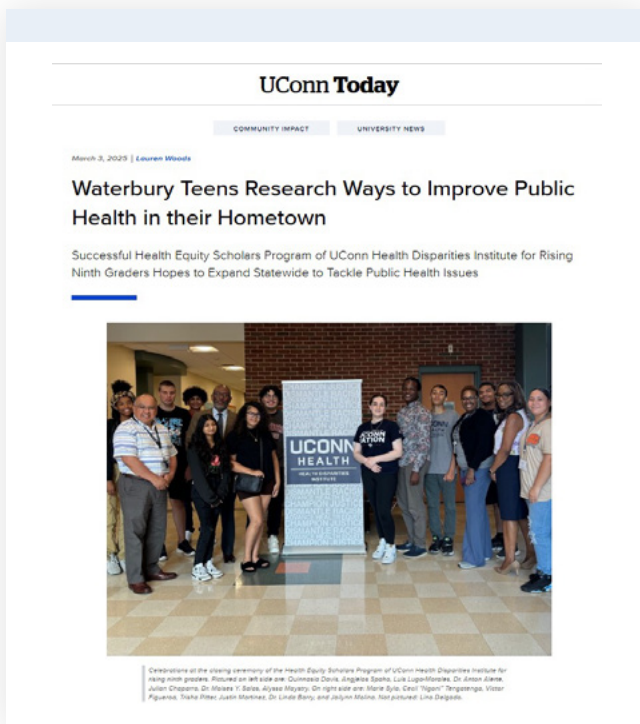
- **Goal:** To train and empower rising 9th graders, known as Health Equity Scholars, to become health service action leaders using a youth participatory action research (YPAR) approach.
- **Partner:** Waterbury Bridges to Success (BTS), UConn Waterbury, CT Area Health Education Center Network (AHEC)
- **Funder:** Waterbury BTS, HDI
- **Accomplishment Spotlight:** One of the scholars presented their work on the impact of air pollution on youth and recommended solutions at the 62nd CT Junior Science and Humanities Symposium hosted by CT AHEC at UConn Health. Read more in this UConn Today story.

Scanxiety Mindfulness Modules

- **Goal:** To create asynchronous mindfulness modules tailored to caregivers who experience anxiety, or “scanxiety,” due to their fear of the unknown, potential patient pain, and possible negative results before imaging procedures for pediatric oncology patients.
- **Partner:** CT Children’s Medical Center (CCMC)
- **Funder:** CCMC
- **Accomplishment Spotlight:** The team completed the learning solution plan for design and development.

Building Community-Based Organization (CBO) Power for Assessment, Analysis and Advocacy

- **Goal:** To build the capacity of smaller CBOs serving marginalized communities to improve their programming and collaborative advocacy to address health-related equity issues and improve collective wellbeing throughout the communities of Connecticut.
- **Partners:** Institute for Community Research, Make the Road CT, Keney Park Sustainability Project, Ruby’s Relam, Hartford Health Matters
- **Funder:** Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, HDI
- **Accomplishment Spotlight:** Four agencies conducted research to improve, inform, and evaluate their practice. All four agencies were



retained over course of program and gave final presentations on their work to the cohort and UConn Health as well as UConn faculty reviewers.

Health Equity Advocacy Research (HEAR) Program

- **Goal:** To generate a pipeline of health equity leaders, particularly among underrepresented minority groups focused on impactful research, advocacy, and systems change.
- **Partners:** UConn Health Department of Public Health Sciences and School of Medicine, and UConn Department of Allied Health Sciences
- **Funder:** Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- **Accomplishment Spotlight:** This year we hired program staff, launched a website, developed program curriculum, cultivated buy-in across schools and departments, established a community advisory board, and launched the program application.

Student Engagement and Internship Program

HDI engages students through independent study, practicum, and volunteer experiences as well as the student internship program, where students work with faculty and staff on a variety of health equity projects. In FY'25, HDI worked with 10 graduate students from UConn Health, UConn, and other universities. We enjoyed working with

these wonderful students and thank them for their contributions to HDI!

- Kripa Patel, UConn MPH Student, HDI Research Intern
- Alexandra SantaMaria, Quinnipiac University Instructional Design and Technology MS Student, HDI Instructional Design Intern
- Genesis Rosario, UConn MPH Student, HDI Social Media Intern
- Julia Neri, UConn MPH/MD Student, HDI Teaching Assistant Intern
- Leelakrishna Channa, UConn MPH/MD Student, HDI Teaching Assistant Intern
- Julian Chaparro, Muhlenberg College BS Student, Waterbury Scholars Program Facilitator
- Marie Syla, UConn Waterbury BS Student, Waterbury Scholars Program Facilitator
- Kayla O'Connor, UConn PhD Student, Menopause Equity Volunteer
- Gustave Lescouflair Jr., UConn MPH Student, Practicum Experience
- Victor Elisha, UConn PhD Student, Independent Study

New Initiative Spotlight: Menopause Equity

Imagine a world where every woman is supported, informed, and empowered as she approaches midlife. A world where menopause is not a silent struggle but a celebrated journey, that involves care providers coordinating to support women's health and wellbeing. That is the vision of the [Menopause Equity Initiative](#)



HDI Director, Dr. Linda Sprague Martinez, tabling at the MFactor event, the launch of the MEI. (Photo by Shariffah Mason, Reef's Views).



Legislative Office Building during the MFactor event. (Photo by Shariffah Mason, Reef's Views).



Audience at the screening of the MFactor documentary. (Photo by Shariffah Mason, Reef's Views).

(MEI), an effort led by the UConn Health Disparities Institute (HDI).

The MEI is a community-led effort to frame menopause as a public health concern and health equity priority. HDI established and is working alongside the Menopause Equity Collective (MEC), a group of mission-aligned statewide organizations and community residents committed to advancing menopause equity and inclusion throughout Connecticut, to champion and advocate for women in midlife, addressing their comprehensive health and care needs. This collaborative approach ensures that the initiative benefits from diverse expertise and deepens our community impact. By working hand-in-hand with local leaders, advocates, policymakers, and health professionals, HDI's goal is to ensure that every event, resource, and conversation is culturally relevant, accessible, and tailored to meet the real needs of Connecticut women.

The MEI launched in May 2025 with an event presented by HDI in partnership with the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity (CWCSEO); the Farmington Valley (CT) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated; the Aurora Foundation for Women and Girls; and the UConn Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy. Over 100 attendees gathered in the Legislative Office Building for a screening of The (M) Factor: Shredding the Silence on Menopause, followed by a panel discussion with



HDI team member, Trisha Pitter, speaks at the MFactor event. (Photo by Shariffah Mason, Reef's Views).

healthcare providers and the audience. Read more about the event in [UConn Today](#).

Looking ahead to the upcoming year, there will be several community-led events to raise awareness and break the silence around menopause, including HDI's signature event, **Power of the Pause Celebration: A Free Menopause Equity Event**, in October 2025 for Menopause Awareness Month. Read about more to come on the [MEI page on HDI's website](#).



HDI Director, Dr. Linda Sprague Martinez, speaks at the MFactor event. (Photo by Shariffah Mason, Reef's Views).

PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS

Peer Reviewed Publications

1. **Sprague Martinez, L. S.**, Scott, J. C., **Rocco, M.**, Miranda, M., Tucker, C., & Walter, A. W. (2025). Critical Reflections From the Black Women First Initiative. *American Journal of Public Health*, (0), e1–e8. IF = 12.7
2. Balvanz P, Olvera RB, Booty M, McSwiggan J, Damato-MacPherson C, Ellison S, Farmer A, Klingler K, Kuntz A, Lewis N, Oser CB, **Sprague Martinez, L.**, Stitzer, S., Surratt, H., Yamoah, O., Berkshire, A, Carter, T., Campbell, K., Dynes, S., Gealy, B., & McGladrey, M. (2025). A participatory photovoice investigation of community assets, barriers, and opportunities to curb the opioid epidemic. *Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment*. Jun 30:209741. IF = 1.9
3. Greer A. Hamilton, G.A., **Sprague Martinez, L.**, Barocas, J.A., Chassler, D., Murphy, S.M., Ryan, D., Amuchi, C.B., Bullard, M., McSwiggan-Hong, J., Bridden, C., Alonzo, J., Bowman, P., Lisanti-Park, A., Wheeler, M., Laudate, A., Medley, B., Gutnick, D., Salsberry, P., Hunt, T., D’Onfro M., Samet, J.H., Battaglia, T. (2025) The process and cost of developing a community advisory board focused on opioid overdose deaths. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships*. (Forthcoming.) 5 May, 2025. IF =1.3
4. Scott, J. C., **Rocco, M.**, Kitchen, M., Solomon-Brimage, N. A., Chen, C. A., Latimer, J. M., Davies, G., Wheeler, J., Furton, L., **Sprague Martinez, L.S.**, Rajabiun, S., Umrigar, A., & Walter, A. W. (2025). Intersectional HIV Stigma Among Black Women: Regional Differences and Implications From the Black Women First Initiative. *American Journal of Public Health*, 115(S1), S75-S84. IF = 12.7
5. Walter, A. W., **Rocco, M.**, Scott, J. C., Carhee, A., Ayafor, V., Goodwin, R., Lewis-Chery, S., Downes, A., Spencer L.Y., & **Sprague Martinez, L.S.** (2025). Beyond Survival: Harnessing Sustainability Frameworks to Assess and Support Programs Implementing Bundled Interventions for Black Women With HIV. *American Journal of Public Health*, 115(S1), S28–S37. IF = 12.7
6. Tang Yan, C., & **Sprague Martinez, L.** (2025). Reimagining Mentoring in Social Work Doctoral Programs: a Critical Duoethnographic Narrative of Counterspaces. *Social Work Education*, 1–21. IF = 1.3
7. Morris, K., & **Martinez, L. S.** (2024). “We Continue to Keep This Crisis in the Forefront”: Women Survivors of Homicide Advancing Justice. *Advances in Social Work*, 24(2), 252–268. IF = 0.136
8. Gibson EB, Glasgow L, Nouvong M, McGladrey M, Freedman D, Chassler D, Vickers-Smith R, D’Onfro M, Goddard-Eckrich DA, Hunt T, Chatterjee A, Holloway J, Fain K, Cruz RS, **Sprague Martinez L. S.** Implementing and documenting cultural adaptation of evidence-based practice strategies to reduce opioid overdose deaths: examples and lessons from the HEALing communities study. *Discover Public Health*. 2025;22(1):296. doi: 10.1186/s12982-025-00696-2. Epub 2025 May 25. PMID: 40433450; PMCID: PMC12104109. IF = not yet available
9. Walter, A. W., Mohan, M. P., Zhang, X., **Rocco, M.**, Rajabiun, S., Cabral, H. J., ... & **Sprague Martinez, L. S.** (2024). Organizational readiness to implement bundled interventions to increase HIV linkage and retention in care and treatment: results from the Black Women First (BWF) initiative. *BMC Health Services Research*, 24(1), 1226. IF = 3.4
10. Chassler, D., McClay, C., D’Onfro, M., Maccone, A., Kimball, J., Reynolds, D., ... & **Sprague Martinez, L. S.** (2024). “... work really is being done and it’s very worthwhile...”: Reflections from Community Advisory Board members. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships*. IF = 1.3

11. **Sprague Martinez, L.**, Sharma, N., John, J., Battaglia, T. A., Linas, B. P., Clark, C. R., ... & Bassett, I. V. (2024). Long COVID impacts: the voices and views of diverse Black and Latinx residents in Massachusetts. *BMC Public Health*, 24(1), 1-8. IF = 4.2
12. **Rocco, M.**, Kitchen, M., Flores-Rodriguez, C., Downes, A., Scott, J. C., Rajabiun, S., ... & **Sprague Martinez, L.** (2024). Convenings as a tool for enhancing implementation strategies: lessons from the Black Women First initiative. *Implementation Science Communications*, 5(1), 109. IF = 3.3
13. Knudsen, HK, Walker, DM, Mack, N, Kinnard, EN, Huerta, TR, Glasgow, L, Gilbert, L, Garner, BR, Dasgupta, A, Chandler, R, Walsh, SL, Tin, Y, Tan, S, Sprunger, J, **Sprague Martinez, L.**, Salsberry, P, Saucier, M, Rudorf, M, Rodriguez, S, Oser, CB, Oga, E, Nakayima, J, Linas, BS, Lefebvre, RC, Kosakowski, S, Katz, RE, Hunt, T, Holman, A, Holloway, J, Goddard-Eckrich, D, Fareed, N, Christopher, M, Aldrich, A, Adams, JW, Drainoni, M-L "Reducing perceived barriers to scaling up overdose education and naloxone distribution and medications for opioid use disorder in the United States in the HEALing (helping end addiction long-term®) Communities Study." *Preventive Medicine* 185 (2024): 108034. IF = 5.443
14. Singh-Smith, K., **Sprague Martinez, L.**, Eliasziw, M., Lerman Ginzburg, S., Hudda, N., **Betz, G. M.**, ... & Brugge, D. (2024). Reaction to at-home air purifiers installed to reduce traffic-related air pollution in near-highway residences. *Trials*, 25(1), 551. IF = 2.2
15. Ford, B.T., Weaver, A.P., Davey, A., Mayo, J.W., Shuman, M.E., Mayo, B.C., **Coman, E.** and Crepeau, A.E. (2025). Comparison of Postoperative Strength Progression and Outcomes Following Primary Versus Secondary ACL Reconstruction in the

Young Athlete. *Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics*, 45(4), pp.177-182. IF = 1.4

16. Haddad, M., **Coman, E.**, & Bifulco, L. (2024). Nine-year substance use treatment outcomes with buprenorphine for opioid use disorder in a federally qualified health center. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 257, 111252. IF = 3.6



Reports

1. Betz, G., Diaz, V., Pitter, T., Bartholomew, Z., Coman, E., Sprague Martinez, L. Phase 1 Survey Brief Report. UConn Health Disparities Institute. 2024.
2. Community Research Team. Phase 1 Focus Group Brief Report. UConn Health Disparities Institute. 2024.
3. Bartholomew, Z., Diaz, V., Coman, E., Sprague Martinez, L. Social Determinants of Health Report. UConn Health Disparities Institute. 2025.
4. Community Research Team. Phase 2 Assessment Report. UConn Health Disparities Institute. 2025.

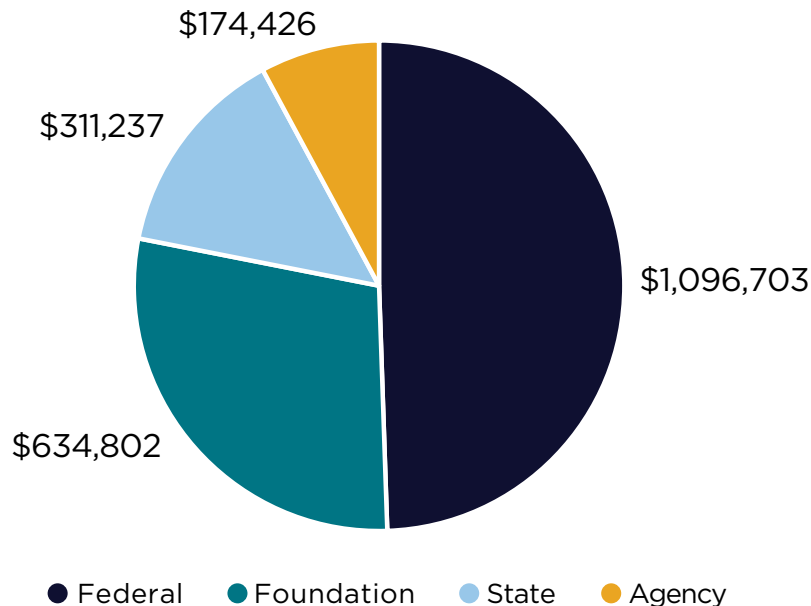
FUNDING

In FY'25, HDI submitted a total of 17 grants and contracts, nine of which we led and eight of which we supported. We were awarded nine new grants and contracts, totaling \$1,084,056:

- Waterbury Health Equity Scholars Program, 7/1/24 - 8/31/24, Waterbury Bridge to Success (BTS), \$17,826
- Advancing Health Equity Through Linguistic Inclusion in Clinical Trials, 08/01/2024 - 07/31/2025, FDA, \$250,000
- Voces Unidas Para Salud: Codesigning Culturally Appropriate Care Models in Hartford, 12/1/2024 - 12/1/2026, Cigna Foundation, \$250,000
- Patient Action Leaders Advancing Novel, Transformative, Equitable (PA'LANTE) Health Care, 02/01/2025 - 01/31/2027, Hispanic Health Council - PCORI, \$108,180
- Scanxiety Mindfulness Modules, 4/1/25 - 9/1/25, CT Children's Medical Center, \$6,000
- Connecticut Oral Health Initiative (COHI) Data Analysis, 6/26/25-12/31/25, COHI, \$32,000
- Building CBO Power for Assessment, Analysis and Advocacy, 07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, \$98,802
- Dissemination of CREPH strategic plan, 7/1/25 - 11/22/26, Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health - CGA, \$305,248
- Connecticut Health Foundation funds to support community engagement and dissemination, dates TBD, CT Health Foundation, \$16,000

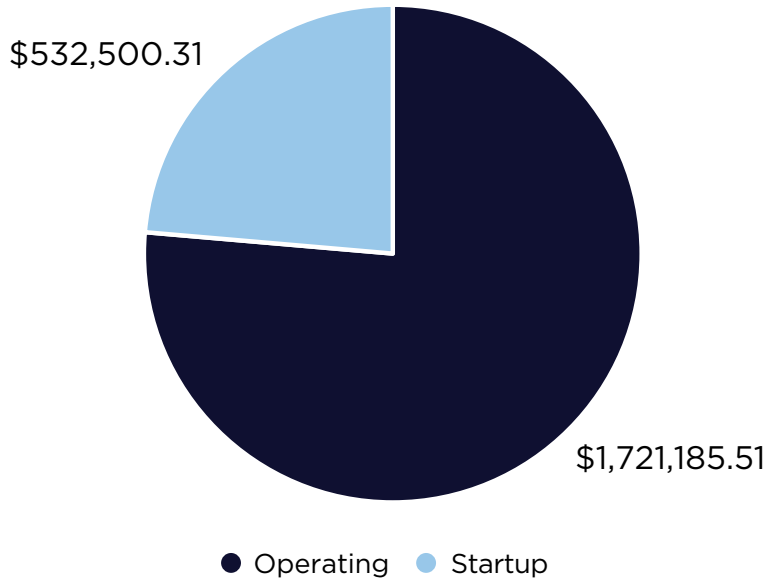
HDI External Funding Sources FY'25

HDI had a total of \$2,217,168 in external funding across all new and existing grants and contracts in FY'25. Types of sponsors included federal, foundation, state, and agency. See the chart below for a breakdown by sponsor type:



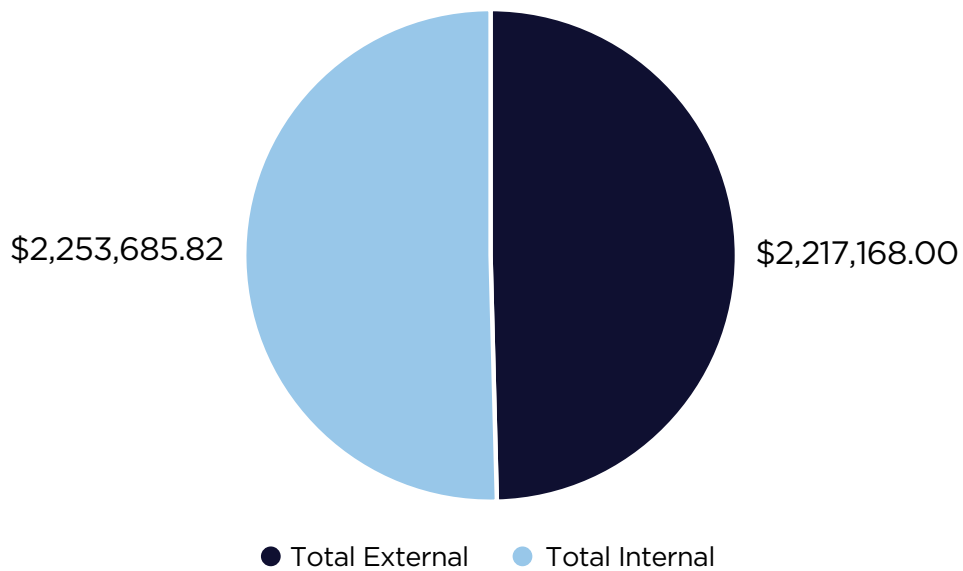
HDI Internal Funding Sources FY'25

HDI had a total of \$2,253,685.82 in internal funding, including the School of Medicine and faculty start-up funds. See the chart below for a breakdown by internal funding sources:



HDI External vs. Internal Funding FY'25

Overall, across both external and internal funding sources, HDI had a total of \$4,470,853.82. See the chart below for a breakdown of internal vs. external funding:





UConn HEALTH

HEALTH DISPARITIES
INSTITUTE

Our mission is to advance systemic change by tackling root causes of health inequities and implementing sustainable solutions through interdisciplinary community-based participatory research partnerships, data-driven community action, and workforce development efforts with communities disproportionately impacted by inequities.

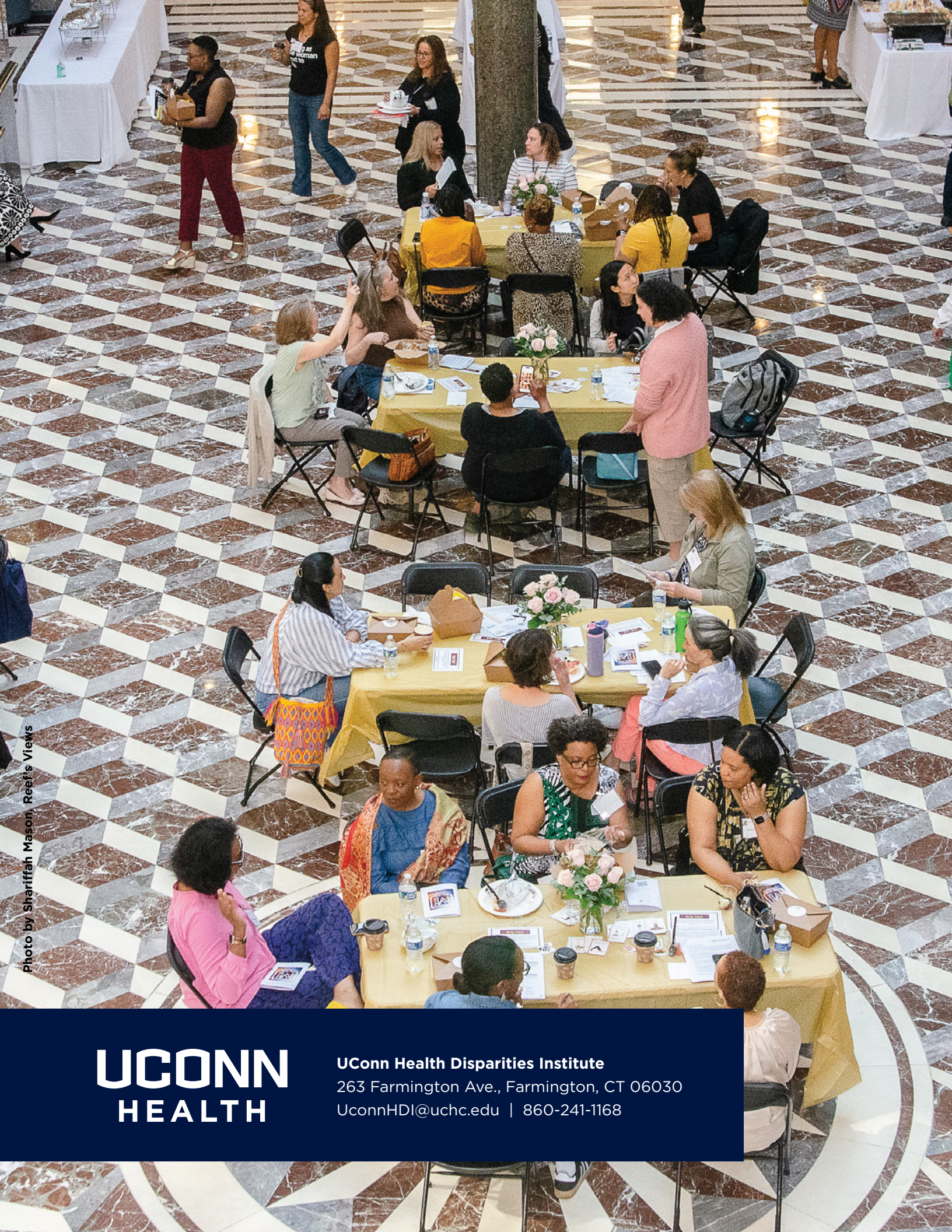


Photo by Shariffah Mason, Reel's Views

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UConn Health Disparities Institute
263 Farmington Ave., Farmington, CT 06030
UconnHDI@uchc.edu | 860-241-1168