

Health Research Priorities of the Region

The research priorities for the Eastern Visayas Region comprise of 22 themes. Themes have corresponding specific research topics. These themes and topics are presented below, together with a brief situational analysis or data specific to the region.

Lifestyle-related Disease

Researches on risk factors leading to lifestyle-related diseases

- a. Genito-urinary diseases (kidney and urinary problem)
- b. Genito-urinary diseases among children
- c. Prevalence of gout among fisherfolks in Tacloban City

Disaster Risk Reduction and Health Emergencies

Researches on the risk of climate change, assessments of current strategies, and capacity for health emergencies

- a. Effects and risk of climate change to all ages
- b. Assessment of climate change adaptation (CCA) strategies
- c. Nutrition in emergencies
- d. Hospital capacity assessment on health emergency management in Eastern Visayas

Health Systems Development and Universal Health Care

Researches on Service Delivery, Health Financing, Health Governance, Health Regulation, Health Economics, and Health Human Resources

Service Delivery

- a. Rehabilitative or palliative care
- b. Effectiveness of referral system
 - i. Establishment of Health Care Provider Network or HCPN
- c. Social Innovation – Innovations in service delivery
- d. Universal Health Care - contract networking, organization of health system, special health funds, incentives to improve competitiveness of public health service delivery system, national health workforce health system, scholarship and training program, financial coverage (tie up studies)
- e. Financial Coverage Topics - pre-payment mechanism, effectiveness of health operations and conduct of activities ex: capability building activities, health promotion

Health Financing

- a. PhilHealth services and costs
- b. Medical assistance fund utilization
- c. Policy gaps and impact assessment of health financing programs

Health Governance

- a. Impact assessment of health-related policies and programs
- b. Inter-Local Health Zone (ILHZ)
 - i. Effectiveness of implementation process applied by development management officers on local health systems development on ILHZs

Health Regulation

- a. Compliance to hospital standards
- b. Food and drug administration
 - i. Study on the use of rate of selected antibiotics in Tacloban City
 - ii. Presence of pharmacist in licensed drug establishments
 - iii. Practice of medication counselling skills
 - iv. Dispensing of antibiotics without prescription
 - v. Adverse drug reporting by health practitioner

Health Economics

- a. Supporting evidence and efficiency of health interventions;
 - i. Cost-benefit analysis directed towards disease and health programs
 - ii. Setting of standards
 - iii. Processes (health economic index)
 - iv. Application of health assessment models (local and health technology assessment) in achieving financial risk protection

Health Human Resources

- a. Human resources for health development (quality of life, supply quantification, competency, effectiveness, future prospects, gaps)
- b. Knowledge and practices affecting health outcomes
- c. Utilization of benefits and incentives (impact of professional fee and professional education)
- d. Strengthening the role of allied health professionals (e.g., nutritionists and physical therapists) to deliver primary care

Nutrition

Researches on nutritional issues in children and adults, including obesity and malnutrition

- a. Obesity in children (practices and attitude)
- b. Malnutrition and other nutrition-related health problems
- c. Factors affecting high incidence of hyperthyroidism

Reproductive Health and Family Planning

Researches on implementation and acceptability of strategies to prevent early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections

- a. Family planning
 - i. Factors affecting acceptability of family planning method
- b. Adolescent sexual reproductive health
 - i. Increase incidence of HIV among young people in Region VIII
- c. Human sexuality education
 - i. Assessment on the implementation of human sexuality education

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for Health

Researches on data science and E-health solutions

- a. Data science and E-health solutions for
 - i. Integration of health information in recording and utilizing patient information
 - ii. Mapping of health risks and health resources
 - iii. Telemedicine
 - iv. Health promotion

Communicable Diseases

Researches on baseline data, risk factors associated with, and utilization of research on communicable diseases

- a. TB and other respiratory tract infections
 - i. Causes of rise of multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB
- b. Diarrheal disease management and control
 - i. Community and household attitudes and practices towards preventing diarrhea
- c. Dengue vector control
 - i. Bioassay and insecticide-resistance
- d. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
 - i. Sexual health of men having sex with men
 - ii. Social stigma
- d. Schistosomiasis
 - i. Assessment and utilization of research conducted
- e. Capillariasis
 - i. Prevalence and incidence in Region VIII

- i. Special topics for COVID-19
 - i. Infection-control policy implementation in health facilities; IPC review; Quality assessment of PPEs used in health facilities, isolation and quarantine facilities, TTMF, health –promotion and dissemination such as risk communication for communities
 - ii. Impact of COVID on mental health of health workers and COVID positive/LSI/ROF
 - iii. Prevalence of COVID-19 Risk Factors (Hypertension, Diabetes Mellitus, Cardiovascular Diseases, Lung Diseases etc.) in Region VIII
 - iv. Health Financing: Medical assistance utilization of COVID-19 related services.
 - v. Mental Health Effects of prolonged quarantine on Health care workers
 - vi. Reintegration status of recovered COVID-19 patients
 - vii. Effect of ECQ, GCQ on the health care services delivery
 - viii. Breastfeeding during COVID-19 pandemic
 - ix. Correlation of Rapid Antibody Testing Results with RT-PCR
 - x. Assessment of MHPSS among responders
 - xi. Fruits and vegetables in Food packs prepared by LGUs
 - xii. Physical, Emotional and Mental Effect of COVID 19 response among Frontliners
 - xiii. Prevalence of VAW during COVID 19
 - xiv. Readiness of LGUs for typhoons during COVID 19 pandemic
 - xv. Effectiveness of family planning during ECQ/GCQ

Health Promotion

Researches on health promotion, information, education, and communication gaps

- a. Effectiveness of information, education, and communication materials in health promotion

Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Researches on effectiveness of interventions for maternal and child health issues

- a. Child
 - i. Child development of antibodies from immunizable vaccines
 - ii. Eye health
 - iii. Attitude of Filipinos on vaccination
 - iv. Incidence of congenital anomalies
- b. Maternal health
 - i. Effectiveness of halfway house in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas
 - ii. Effectiveness of Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care training on maternal mortality ratio
 - iii. Lifestyle and pregnancy

Preventable Injuries and Accidents

Researches to prevent injuries and accidents

- a. Toxicology
- b. Poisoning
- c. Traffic Injury

Health Research Management

Researches to improve the health research policy environment, human resource and institutional capacity

- a. health research policy environment
- b. human resource and institutional capacity
- c. procurement mechanisms including payment of intellectual capital
- d. translation of research into products of public value and utilization
- e. effective application of ethics in health research

Occupational Health

Researches on compliance to occupational safety and standards, and interventions

- a. Compliance to occupational safety and standards, and interventions
- b. Health consequences surrounding documented and undocumented migrant workers and their families
- c. Research on the health impacts of urbanization, industrialization and globalization

Health Behaviors

Researches on factors affecting health service provision, health status, health service utilization, and support for health reform initiatives

- a. Studies on factors (e.g., risky behavior, preferences, perception, and health literacy) affecting:
 - i. health service provision
 - ii. health status
 - iii. health service utilization
 - iv. support for health reform initiatives (e.g., No Balance Billing)

Food Safety

Researches on handling, preparing and storing food

- a. Antimicrobial Resistance
- b. Bacterial Pathogens
- c. Chemical Contaminants
- d. Food Processing and Technology
- e. Sanitation and Quality Standards

School Health

Researches to improve the health and well-being of students

- a. Mental Health for Students
- b. Effects of Virtual Learning

Mental Health

Researches on epidemiology of and service delivery for mental health

- a. Depression and suicide
 - i. Incidence and factors of depression in adolescents
- b. Post-traumatic disorders
- c. Mental retardation, children with special needs
- d. Mental health in workplace (harassment, bullying)

Innovations in Health

Researches to develop new or improved health policies, systems, products and technologies, services, and delivery methods that improve people's health

- a. Social Innovation Research on MNCHN, UHC, and NCD
- b. Capability building on Social Innovation

Traditional and alternative Health Medicine

Clinical researches on traditional and alternative medicines for diseases

- a. Clinical researches on homeopathy
- b. Clinical researches on acupuncture for pain, substance addiction
- c. Clinical researches on naturopathy, ayurveda and anthroposcopic medicine
- b. Adjunctive treatment for cancer, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cardiovascular disease

Geriatrics and Palliative Care

Researches on baseline data on health issues of the elderly and corresponding health programs and interventions

- a. Prevalence and incidence studies on diseases of the elderly
 - i. Accidents or trauma
 - ii. Dementia
- b. Longevity of life for the aged
- c. Healthy aging programs
- d. Quality of life for the elders
- e. Palliative (hospice) care
- f. Home health care

Health Technology and Development

Researches on development of new devices, drugs, and other health technologies

- a. Drug discovery
 - i. Molecular analysis for drug discovery
 - ii. Drug discovery for cancer
- b. Hospital equipment and biomedical devices
 - i. Diagnostics
- c. Information and communications technology in health
 - i. Geographic information system-based mapping for outbreak monitoring and surveillance

Omic Technologies

Researches on genomics, proteomics, transcriptomics, and metabolomics

- a. Generation of new knowledge about health and disease using:
 - i. genomics
 - ii. Proteomics
 - iii. Transcriptomics
 - iv. metabolomics

Functional Foods

Researches on food supplements and functional food development

- a. Food supplements and functional food development
- b. commercialization, safety, regulation, and impact assessment of functional foods and food
- c. supplements