

Health Research Priorities of Region VIII

The Eastern Visayas Health Research and Development Consortium (EVHRDC) is an inter-institutional collaboration of government institutions, academe, professional organizations, hospitals, and other stakeholders that are engaged in health research in Region VIII. The Consortium aims to develop and/or enhance health research and development activities, establish a system of collaboration and resource sharing in undertaking health research, and promote the utilization of health research findings in the region.

To serve as a guide in addressing the health system needs of the region in the next six years, from 2023 to 2028, the Consortium has identified priority regional health problems for research through consultations with the EVHRDC stakeholders.

Indicated below are the research priorities for the Eastern Visayas Region, which comprises 21 themes with each theme having corresponding specific research topics.

Emerging and Reemerging Diseases

- a. Cholera
- b. Social Determinants
- c. Genito-urinary diseases (kidney and urinary problems)
- d. Genito-urinary diseases among children
- e. Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19)
- f. Monkeypox

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation

- 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
- e. Disaster health response (human resource capacity, preparedness, technology, etc.)

Health Systems Development and Universal Health Care

Service Delivery

- a. Rehabilitative or palliative care
- b. Social Innovation – Innovations in service delivery

- c. Universal Health Care - contract networking, organization of health system, special health funds, incentives to improve the competitiveness of public health service delivery system, national health workforce health system, scholarship, and training program, financial coverage (tie up studies)
- d. 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 UHC
- c. Functionality of interlocal health zones (ILHZs)

Health Regulation

- a. Compliance to hospital standards
- b. Food and drug administration
 - i. Study on the use of rate of selected antibiotics
 - 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
 - vi. Basic medicines, facilities, equipment and lab apparatuses

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
- e. Understaffing of human resource
- f. Full compliance to Salary Standardization Law and Magna Carta Benefits for health workers
- g. Increase health services especially in GIDA

- h. Tertiary hospitals per province (referral centers)
- i. Incentives to improve competitiveness of public health service delivery system

Nutrition

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

Reproductive Health and Family Planning

- 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

- 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

- 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
 - i. Roadmap towards dengue-free barangay
- d. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

- i. Sexual health of men having sex with men
 - ii. Social stigma
- e. Schistosomiasis
 - i. Assessment and utilization of research conducted
- f. Rabies
- g. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- h. Leprosy

Non-communicable Diseases

- a. Leading cause of morbidity and mortality
 - i. Diabetes mellitus
 - ii. Stroke
 - iii. Hypertension
 - iv. Cancer

Health Promotion

- a. Effectiveness of information, education, and communication materials in health promotion
- b. Technical and logistics assistance

Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

- 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. Lifestyle and pregnancy
- c. Maternal and infant mortality
- d. Teenage pregnancy

Preventable Injuries and Accident

- a. Toxicology
- b. Poisoning

- c. Traffic Injury

Health Research Management

- 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
- f. health R & D policy and implementation studies to ensure appropriate and relevant R & D and utilization program
- g. Transformative health R & D program

Occupational Health

- 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

- 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

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

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)
- e. Adolescent mental health
- f. Mental health issues related to disasters

Traditional and Alternative Health Medicine

- 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

- 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
- g. Health care for elders
- h. Rehabilitative or palliative care

Health Technology and Development

- 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

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

Functional Foods

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