

Who?

The César E. Chávez Institute (CCI) is a community-based research facility in the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University (SFSU). In partnership with community-based groups and organizations, CCI studies and documents the impact of social oppression on the health, education, and well-being of disenfranchised communities in the United States.

CCI's socially-engaged research mission is guided by the life, work and spirit of César Estrada Chávez (1927-1993) – the Mexican American farm worker, labor leader and civil rights activist who came to symbolize peaceful mobilization in response to social oppression.



César E. Chávez Institute
San Francisco State University
College of Ethnic Studies

**A community of socially-engaged scholars
in partnership with social justice**



What?

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Adolescent Health Initiative

Community research, interventions, education and training that focus on the health, mental health and well-being of adolescents.

Capacity-Building Initiative

Assessment and strengthening of community organizations to respond more effectively to the rapidly changing social and health needs of marginalized communities.

Educational Equity Initiative

Collaborative research projects in urban schools and community-based organizations to bolster educational and youth development practices that address race and class inequalities.

Latino Laborers Initiative

Analysis of the broad social and structural forces that affect the lives and health of Latino migrants, contributing to the pursuit of a more enlightened national immigration policy.

Gay Men of Color Initiative

Research and intervention projects addressing the higher prevalence of HIV infection and substance abuse among gay men of color, focusing on strengths and resilience.

Why?

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A wide gap exists between academic researchers and community-based organizations (CBOs) – two groups that work to ameliorate a wide range of intractable social problems. Often, this gap prevents mutual sharing and the transfer of valuable knowledge, information, and evidence-based scientific tools.

CCI strives to close this gap and serve as a link among academic researchers, service providers, policy makers, and community advocates. Such collaboration allows marginalized communities a voice at the research table and provides researchers with a better understanding of the complexity of human behavior in context.

Moreover, both academic researchers and CBOs stand to benefit by exploring the larger social contexts of human suffering, the structural violence ingrained in our society. CCI's projects focus on health and educational inequalities based on race, class, gender, ethnicity, immigration status and sexual orientation.

How?

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CCI's commitment is to the highest quality research methodologies with the goal of developing effective and culturally appropriate strategies to eliminate social injustices within our communities.

CCI adheres to the principles of true participatory research. We understand that research must be grounded in the full contextual meaning of human behavior. Research must also be action-oriented so that the fruits of this science are made quickly available to the communities in which it was conducted. Furthermore, in-depth research itself can be an intervention, triggering greater personal awareness and social consciousness among the participants.

Productive collaborations with community groups, health providers, educators, and policy makers make CCI's in-depth research possible. This collaboration is critical for finding new, meaningful directions not only for research, but also for policy, services, and programs.

Additionally, CCI implements the SFSU Minority Research Infrastructure Support Program (M-RISP), which promotes mental health research in ethnic minority communities and helps to cultivate new generations of socially-engaged researchers.



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