

## Project Description & Background

The Well-Woman Project (WWP) is a joint effort of the University of Illinois School of Public Health (UIC-SPH) and CityMatCH. While as a result of the ACA, the preventive health or Well-Woman Visit is covered through many insurance plans and Medicaid, there are disparities in utilization of these services. In addition, even when women have access to preventive care, there are everyday realities that affect their ability to be healthy or Well-Women. The Well-Woman Project aims to gain an understanding of the barriers women face seeking preventive care as well as the realities of their lives that prevent them from being Well-Women. Most importantly, the WWP includes an essential and innovative component to this attempt at understanding: women's voices.

## PROJECT GOAL

*To elevate women's voices about what makes them healthy and able to access and utilize well-woman care within the context of their lives, neighborhoods, and cities.*

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 1. Gather women's stories and elevate their voices with respect to the Well-Woman Visit, paying close attention to the conditions of women's lives that affect their ability to be Well-Women and seek Well-Woman care.*
- 2. Develop City Profiles of Women's Health for each of eight participating cities based on input from women.*
- 3. Develop actionable recommendations to support Well-Women and to support a women-friendly health system.*

## CAPTURING WOMEN'S VOICES

**Listening Sessions: Small focus groups consisting of a guided conversation focused on women's health, Well-Woman care, and the conditions of women's lives that affect their ability to be healthy facilitated by UIC/CityMatCH staff.**

- Eight participating cities
  - Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Jackson, Nashville, New Orleans, Oakland, Omaha
- 156 women (18-47 years old) participated
- Audio recordings of sessions were professionally transcribed and analyzed using a qualitative data analysis software program. Some codes in the analysis were general ones used across the entire data set, and others were specific to information from individual cities.

**Blog & Phone Line: A secure, confidential website & toll-free phone line where women could share their personal stories related to their health and health care experiences.**

- Open nationally for 8 months
- Stories from 104 women
- Stories analyzed using qualitative software as described above.

### Note on Quotes and Recommendations in City Profiles:

Analysis of Listening Sessions and Stories was conducted by examining and documenting patterns (or "themes") present within the Listening Session discussions and shared Stories (website or phone line) transcripts. Quotes included on each city's profile are "representative quotes" and not the ONLY quote that resulted for each theme in each city. Themes are based on commonality of ideas and opinions expressed by women in each respective city, across all cities, and across the shared Stories. While all women's comments informed a deeper understanding of women's experiences, themes were based on recurring and reverberating ideas presented by women; no theme was based on comments from just one or two women. Similarly, recommendations were generated through an iterative process and are comprised of ideas that came from: 1) women themselves; 2) the research team's partners/stakeholders; and, 3) the research team itself. They are proposed as suggestions for consideration and are mainly focused at the systems and policy levels.