Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., the principal deputy commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and former Commissioner for Health in Baltimore, has laid out the case for new research and ideas to address urban tobacco use in the latest issue of the journal *Progress in Community Health Partnerships (PCHP).*

“Tobacco control efforts for young people should be designed and evaluated in a matter of months and then thoughtfully brought to scale,” he writes. “On such a core public health issue, the long-term health of the city is very much at stake.”

Sharfstein’s editorial “Research and Action in Urban Tobacco Control” leads off the issue dedicated to health issues facing inner-city youth. Research reported in the issue covers projects in Baltimore, Wisconsin, Philadelphia and New Hampshire.

The Baltimore project is an examination of how to build tobacco cessation and prevention programs into job training and education programs. The study was conducted by a half-dozen researchers from the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, the Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition, Youth Opportunity Baltimore, and Civic Works.

“Cigarette smoking can only be tackled if we situate this issue into the wider context of the conditions of everyday living for unemployed, African American, young adults in Baltimore,” the study concludes. “Education and job training programs need external champions for long-term sustainability and tobacco control advocates can and should be a part of such efforts.”

This kind of partnership offers a clear example of the community-based participatory research (CBPR) featured in the quarterly journal. The journal supports the work of community health partnerships that involve ongoing collaboration between community representatives and academic or governmental partners. *PCHP* is the first peer-reviewed journal dedicated to CBPR.

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